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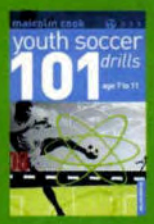

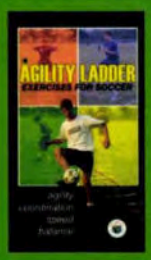

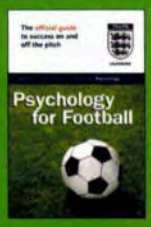

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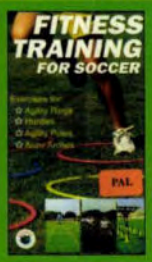

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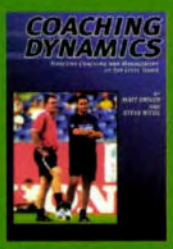

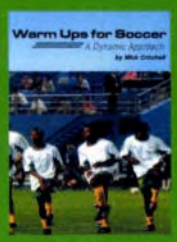

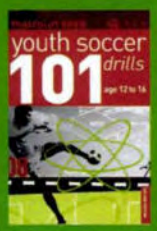

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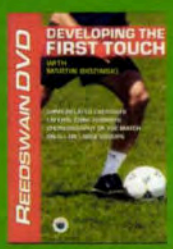

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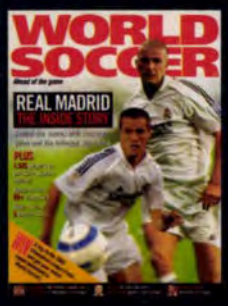

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NOVEMBER 2004

WORLD SOCCER comment

FLORENTINO PEREZ at Real Madrid...Roman Abramovich at Chelsea...Malcolm Glazer, possibly, at Manchester United. Whoever said that football was the game of the people?

Football has always been a magnet for the rich and powerful. But whereas in the past club directors regarded involvement with their local clubs almost as a form of community service, nowadays the sums of money involved in football have changed the nature of the beast entirely. Altruism is out. Profit is in.

Increasingly, the world's biggest clubs are becoming rich man's playthings. More and more clubs are de-listing from the stock exchange and heading into private ownership. It has happened at Chelsea, and could happen at Manchester United. And the game's authorities appear powerless to prevent it happening – or even to be seen to be trying to do something about it. Anybody with money is seen as a saviour, a good guy whose every wish should be acceded to – rather than the cynical opportunists that they often are.

The roll call of club owners in the Premier League includes pornographers and tax exiles. If Liverpool had agreed the recently proposed deal with the Thai prime minister, Thaksin Shinawatra, we could have added human rights abusers to the list.

In Spain, the ownership structure of clubs is different, but that has not prevented abuses of power – witness the extraordinary events at Real Madrid in recent weeks. Club president Perez has been hailed in some quarters as a modern romantic, and he could not resist the temptation of adding another so-called *galactico* to his club's ranks this summer in the form of Michael Owen. But as Sid Lowe reports from Madrid, Owen has unwittingly become a pawn in a highly-charged soap opera.

As *World Soccer*'s correspondent in Spain, Sid is the best qualified English-speaking journalist to report on the situation at Real Madrid. A daily visitor to the training ground, as well as a regular interpreter for David Beckham, he is as close to the club as it is possible for any independently-minded journalist to be. His fascinating report starts on page 6.

Also this month, we continue with our exclusive Champions League competition – the details are on page 45. And we begin a special Euro Squads section on page 32, with lists from England, France and Germany. Italy and Spain will follow next month.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

*** SAVE MONEY ON WORLD SOCCER SEE OUR SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER ON PAGE 26

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New 'Hispanic' club go Dutch

UNITED STATES: Club Deportivo Chivas-USA, the new MLS club backed by Mexican club Chivas, will begin playing next year and will be coached by Dutchman Thomas Rongen. **Page 58**

BIELSA OUT, PEKERMAN IN

ARGENTINA: Marcelo Bielsa quit as national coach and was replaced by former youth team supremo Jose Pekerman. **Page 12**

COVER STORY

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The resignation of Jose Antonio Camacho as coach has exposed familiar problems of player power and presidential interference at the club.
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Rooney's hat-trick

ENGLAND: Wayne Rooney's astonishing debut for Manchester United, in the Champions League against Fenerbahce, was greeted with huge acclaim. **Page 65**

GAME'S UP FOR JUPP

GERMANY: The Bundesliga's 'chaos club', Schalke, sacked coach Jupp Heynckes after they lost three of their first four games.
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Nedved retires hurt

CZECH REPUBLIC: Pavel Nedved, troubled by a knee injury and upset by media criticism, announced his retirement from international football. **Page 54**

Al Ain lose Asian crown

UAE: Holders Al Ain crashed out of the Asian Champions League at the quarter-finals stage after losing 5-1 on aggregate to South Korean side Chonbuk Motors. **Page 62**

Writing on wall for Del Bosque

TURKEY: Former Real Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque was on the brink of being sacked by Besiktas after the Istanbul side lost 3-2 at home to promoted Ankaraspor.
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VOLLER MAKES QUICK EXIT

ITALY: German coach Rudi Voller lasted just 26 days as Roma coach after a chaotic start to the season.
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Dragons lose their fire

PORTUGAL: The Portuguese and European champions FC Porto are struggling to repeat their success of recent seasons. **Page 22**

White mischief

The resignation of Jose Antonio Camacho has exposed familiar problems with player power and presidential interference at Real Madrid. Sid Lowe reports

HOWEVER HARD YOU try, you just can't keep Real Madrid out of the news – for good or bad.

On a warm Sunday night in mid-September, all eyes were, for once, elsewhere as Atletico Madrid took on Barcelona at a rocking Vicente Calderon stadium. The only two sides in the First Division with 100 per cent records, head to head; Fernando Torres against Ronaldinho; a classic match renowned for producing a ludicrously large number of goals.

And yet, Atletico's overbearing city neighbours still blustered their way into the front line, as if annoyed at being shunted, however temporarily, from the spotlight.

The match wasn't even over – Torres had just clipped a brilliant finish in off the bar – when word raced round the stadium. Up at the other, posher end of town Real Madrid's famously volatile, bruising manager Jose Antonio Camacho had resigned in a huff. Again. Just four matches into the League season.

Phones were drawn like guns from holsters, networks jammed, countless calls were put in to colleagues and friends as the scramble for information began. Was it true? What had happened?

Atletico and Barca were quickly forgotten (it finished 1-1, by the way). In the post-match interviews, both sets of players, sighing loudly, were asked not about themselves or the match but about their eternal rivals.

Nothing was confirmed yet, but state radio RNE and commercial station Cadena Ser, the latter extremely close to Madrid president Florentino Perez, reported that Camacho had attempted to resign during the afternoon. This was five days after his side's 3-0 humiliation at the hands of Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League and the day after Madrid's weak 1-0 capitulation at Espanyol – a defeat made all the more striking for the sight of David Beckham and Raul on the bench.

Slaughtered in Europe, embarrassed by Espanyol at Montjuic and with just two League wins to their name – both rather fortunate 1-0s – Madrid were in crisis; a galactic crisis. Defensively they had tightened up but they had scored just twice in four matches: hardly a great return for a side boasting Ronaldo, Raul, Zinedine Zidane, Luis Figo, Beckham, Roberto Carlos and, of course, Michael Owen.

Try as he might, Camacho couldn't sort it out. He spoke to 'club captains' Raul and Roberto Carlos at training on the morning of the Atletico-Barca game (but not, noticeably, the club's other captain, Guti), as well as to dressing-room heavyweights Michel Salgado and Ivan Helguera. He told them his thoughts, revealed that he was planning to throw in the towel, and then confirmed those intentions to Perez.

Initially Perez was said to have refused – although such a claim smacks more of public relations than private reality – but the following morning Camacho's resignation was confirmed. An hour later than scheduled, with the delay merely worsening moods in a stuffed and sweaty temporary press room at the Bernabeu stadium, Perez, Camacho, sporting director Emilio Butragueno (mute throughout) and Mariano Garcia Remon – Camacho's goalkeeping coach and No 3 and the man due to take over – finally appeared.

There were no questions allowed from the floor and few real explanations, just short statements from the platform: Perez did not even confirm whether or not Garcia Remon was a permanent appointment, whether or not he had been offered a new contract. (He had not and still has not; he continues to work under the existing one). The president added that Camacho would stay on at the club in some as yet undecided capacity and rather oddly insisted that Garcia Remon – "a club man through and through" – would provide "continuity" to Camacho's frankly unsuccessful work. (Perez even ordered the team's official photo to be re-taken, with Garcia Remon in Camacho's position, as if to pretend that nothing had happened.)

'This isn't the way I dreamed of managing Real Madrid'

New coach Mariano Garcia Remon

Calling for "normality and tranquillity", Perez insisted: "We are going to work together to achieve our sporting objectives." If only they had all worked together before, many thought – including the intruder at the back of the room who shouted abuse, complaining that "it's always the bloody same with you, Florentino!"

Fidgety, looking uncomfortable, Camacho also offered a short statement, in which he thanked the club and the fans for their support. The players were conspicuous by their absence. "The team's performances are not good enough," he admitted, "and with me in charge I do not think they will improve because I have a way of working and a way of training that does not get reflected on the pitch. I told the president my thoughts, and he asked me if I thought I could change things. I said no, that the team could

Movers and shakers... Camacho, Perez and Garcia Remon

Fading stars?... (clockwise from above) Figo, Beckham and Ronaldo have all been criticised for their below-par performances

find itself in an even bigger crisis."

Finally, it was the turn of the moustached, quiet Garcia Remon, a personal friend of Camacho, who insisted that it was a "sad day" for him. "This isn't the way I dreamed of managing Madrid," he said. "I only took this job for two reasons: one, because Jose Antonio asked me to; and two, because the club asked me to. Those were the reasons – and in that order. If not, I wouldn't be here." It was an enigmatic and telling remark, one that hinted at deeper problems at the club, a warning to players and president about his own loyalties.

Balls to the *galacticos*

In truth, while few foresaw so rapid a collapse, Camacho's time at Madrid always had the potential to be a disaster. The man with the famously sweaty pits, the soothing presence of a rhino in a school playground, and an obsession with *huevos*, or balls, was never likely to last long among the *galacticos*.

Camacho is far from subtle, an ex-left back renowned for his never-say-die attitude, a straight-talking bruiser who demands total control and whose volatility is legendary. And Madrid could hardly claim not to have been forewarned, either: his previous stint at the club, cut short due to fractious discussions over his backroom staff with then president Lorenzo Sanz, had lasted 23 days and no matches.

So perhaps a whopping 116 days and four League games, plus pre-season, Champions League qualifiers and a friendly defeat to Hugo Sanchez's Pumas UNAM of Mexico, wasn't so bad. Especially in so special an environment as that created at the Bernabeu by Perez. For it was the president's autocratic style, the marketing-driven divisiveness of the Zidanes and Pavons' model of superstars and youth-teamers that truly set up Camacho's fall.

Camacho at Perez's Madrid, surrounded by egos and supposedly precious *galacticos* – it was a recipe for disaster. And yet it was what the fans demanded; both the coach himself and especially the consummate politician Perez found themselves prisoners of Camacho's legend. Totally different, holding diametrically opposed visions of football, yet both demanding control, the president and coach were never likely to see eye-to-eye. Perez would have preferred not to turn to Camacho at all but, with elections looming and the fans having made their feelings clear, he was trapped.

Brought in to provide discipline after Real Madrid failed to win anything last season, Camacho was the new model manager. Although the 2003-04 collapse owed much to Perez's marketing-obsessed handling of the club, coach Carlos Queiroz was scapegoated, blamed for the players' lack of commitment, while Camacho was welcomed as the saviour.

Camacho seemed the right man at the time. But the managerial model has changed four times in three years – from the understated, old-school psychology of Vicente Del Bosque, to the modernity and low-profile charm of Queiroz, to the raw tub-thumping of Camacho (and now, with Garcia Remon, back to Del Bosque, complete with moustache). It's hard to avoid the conclusion that Perez bends with prevailing winds, that he doesn't really know what he wants.

First Perez got rid of Del Bosque because he was cuddly, had a

Untouchable...Raul was the only *galactico* to escape criticism from Camacho

moustache and was the son of a railway trade unionist – "not modern enough," ran the official reason. Then, he opted for, and made a scapegoat of, Queiroz when Madrid achieved nothing; never mind that the squad was too thin, that Queiroz pleaded for a centre-back and a defensive midfielder, or that he wasn't allowed to play Albert Celades, who left, or Esteban Cambiasso, who didn't but might as well have done. Queiroz was deemed too soft, too permissive of the capricious *galacticos*.

A club legend, Camacho was central to Perez's summer election campaign, his brilliantly engineered political saviour, the man who would impose discipline and bring down the bloated superstar that infuriated fans. A culture that spawned white hankies, jeers and a 30-foot banner reading: "For you, whores and money; for us, indignation"; a culture born of 'Zidanes and Pavons' but, handily for Perez, one that shifted attention to players and coach.

Camacho had a foul mouth and a pair of *huevos* the size of the Bernabeu and would make the superstars sweat almost as profusely as he does. Squat, ugly, far from refined, he was the very antithesis of a *galactico* – and that was the way the fans liked it. "The fans keep telling me to really stick it to them," Camacho revealed. He was, they thought, exactly what Madrid needed.

Only he wasn't, far from it. His relationship with the players was bound to be problematic. One first-teamer even said back in May, well before the coach arrived, that "either Camacho changes or he won't last long here".

'When you thump the desk, you either break the desk or your hand'

Roberto Carlos slams Camacho's style

And so it proved. Camacho lost his players almost immediately, carried away with his own need to scream and shout and impose. He became a self-fulfilling prophecy, a parody, constantly in a bad mood, forever looking for a fight. If they want tough, I'll show them tough! Rather than uniting his players, his bulldozing style, big mouth and unsubtle training regime served only to divide an already delicately balanced squad. Not least because the players, so used to careful man management and a comforting arm, thought he was deliberately playing up in front of the television cameras, that he was self-consciously fulfilling the role laid out for him. And as it turned out, the problem for Camacho was that real power at the Bernabeu does not reside in the manager's office; if you don't get the players and the president on side, you're not long for this world. Camacho didn't – and wasn't.

"When you thump a fist on the desk you either break the desk or you break your hand, nothing else happens," said Roberto Carlos, really saying it all about Camacho's attitude and the players' reading of him.

Losing the dressing-room

High-profile harangues about a lack of effort have irritated many of the players, especially Ronaldo, publicly seen as the most lackadaisical member of the squad even though he was one of the few consistent performers last year. Complaints about "pointless fancy flicks" were keenly felt by Zidane, the barely-disguised target. Constant allusions to the fact that players are "not untouchable", that they "can't live on their pasts", wound up those who believed themselves to be unfairly fingered, even if Camacho had a point. While any normal manager would consider himself

free to pick who he wants, that simply is not the case at Madrid.

There was even more to it than that, however. Far from astute tactically, Camacho curbed Roberto Carlos's attacking instincts, demanded that Ronaldo chase back, imposed limits on Figo's movement and restricted Beckham's area of influence. The coach may have found perspiration but he lost inspiration. His handling of substitutions irritated still further; when Madrid lost 3-0 in Leverkusen, Camacho replaced Ronaldo and Figo, a decision that seemed publicly to single them out as the guilty men, while leaving Raul on – in central midfield.

That infuriated a number of key players and appeared to confirm what some had come to see as Raul's untouchable status. The coach constantly held meetings with his captain but not the rest of the squad, always picked him even though he had gone eight months without a goal, and appeared all too willing to listen when Raul insisted on opportunities for his best mate Fernando Morientes.

But while Camacho had already irritated five *galacticos*, it was the trip to Montjuic that proved the final straw. He responded to the Leverkusen defeat – after which Guti had deliberately stood within earshot and, talking on his mobile, pretended to appeal to Del Bosque to "come back now!" – in typically blustering style. He dropped Raul and Beckham, with Zidane and Figo already out through injury.

It was a powerful, aggressive statement of intent from a man disgusted with the attitude of his players, the *galactico* culture and the way the club is run. But it was also, at long last, a capitulation in the face of pressure from within and without to drop Raul. It was, said newspaper *AS*, a revolution. The revolution, though, only had a negative impact.

Madrid lost 1-0 to Espanyol and while wholesale changes provide easy scapegoats, they do not make for happy footballers. In their body language, the players said far more than in their post-match interviews. The man brought in to control the dressing-room had lost it entirely.

That much was proven with a half-time bust up. Camacho came in all guns blazing and the players responded in kind, telling him in no uncertain terms that they'd had enough, that it was time they were treated with a bit of respect. Who was he to have a go at them? The coach knew it was all over. All the more so when, after the game, he was reprimanded by Perez, ever-sensitive to Madrid's all-important image and allegedly the recipient of an angry call from Adidas because Beckham had been left on the bench.

Familiar feeling

Perez's intervention was not only the final straw but also underlined in stark terms why Camacho was always on a hiding to nothing. After all, player power, fractious relationships and tied hands are nothing new at Madrid.

After last season's disaster and the clamour from the fans, Camacho had been granted more power than any of his predecessors. He had a say over signings (Jonathan Woodgate and Walter Samuel) and even squad-building – Camacho had insisted on keeping Celades and Morientes and, remarkably, Perez ceded. It was no coincidence that sporting director Jorge Valdano was not replaced; Camacho thought he would be granted the power of an English manager, not a Spanish coach. And for a while it appeared he would be.

Yet his relationship with the president was less fluid than it appeared, many of their discussions carried out through third parties. And the player power myth needs some deflating, even if it was the detonator this time; it is but a product of the unique way Madrid is run, and Camacho's relationship with Perez was little better. It deteriorated still further with the signing of Michael Owen. Indeed, *World Soccer* understands, Camacho was on the verge of walking there and then.

Already a difficult environment to enter – one where countless players, tired of the special way Madrid is run, are desperate to leave, where meritocracy has long since disappeared out the window – Madrid is harder still to withstand. And Camacho found that his role had been complicated still further by Owen's arrival.

Camacho, who desperately wanted Patrick Vieira, was furious. It wasn't that he didn't rate Owen, but he couldn't find him a place. How could he drop Raul or Ronaldo? And he'd promised Fernando Morientes good minutes. (Morientes revealed as much after Camacho's departure with a thinly-veiled attack: "Owen is a presidential signing and the president will be happy with him. When you go from three strikers to four, things change.")

World turned upside down... Owen's arrival upset Madrid's players, while the scoreboard from the Leverkusen defeat (top) tells the story of their dismal performances on the pitch

Camacho is a man who demands control, but with Owen's arrival it dawned on him that apparent change was illusory: like Queiroz and Del Bosque, his hands were tied. When he played Owen ahead of Morientes, and finally Raul, he was accused of bowing to media and marketing pressure. Raul defended Camacho to the last but even he wasn't happy.

Owen's arrival posed a threat to Madrid's core – to its captain and the heaviest of the heavyweights, as well as the autonomy of Camacho – bringing to the boil simmering discontent. It is emphatically not about Owen personally or professionally, however, but what he represents. With his linguistic limitations, the new boy was both blameless and surely ignorant of his centrality. "My team-mates have assured me that this kind of thing doesn't always happen," he said. He ought to treat such information with caution. There is nothing new under the Madrid sun. Just ask Nicolas Anelka. And Jose Antonio Camacho.

The dressing-room stacked against him, a political hot-potato signed for him and a president that not only failed to defend him but also criticised him for leaving out the club's most marketable star, it was perhaps no surprise therefore that Camacho walked, lamenting that until culture and priorities change, Madrid will ever be thus.

History lessons

New coach faces same old problems

THE LESSON OF history is that the dressing-room has always run the show at Real Madrid with, largely, successful results – any president who tries to interfere gets a bloody nose.

Consider the team of the 1950s who won the European Champions Cup five years in a row. Jose Villalonga was boss in 1956 and 1957; Luis Carniglia in 1958 and 1959; Fleitas Solich from the summer of 1959 to the spring of 1960; then former captain Miguel Munoz for the European win of 1960. Five seasons, five cups, four coaches – and this was the most golden of eras in Madrid's history.

Alfredo Di Stefano was centre-forward and superstar and he ran the show, though he was never club captain. That was always the longest-serving player: first right-half Munoz, then left-half Jose Maria Zarraga, then left-winger Paco Gento.

Villalonga lost the dressing-room and had to go; Carniglia tried to make Frenchman Raymond Kopa the attacking fulcrum when Di Stefano was out injured and paid with his job when the Argentinian returned;

'The cute appointment is always the man with the dressing-room on his side'

Solich was dismissed as old-fashioned by all-knowing players who had just won their fourth European Cup.

Munoz stayed around for a record 14 years. But then, he was a product of the dressing-room; he had been a European Cup-winning team-mate in 1956 and 1957. The dressing-room was happy for one of their own nominally to run the show.

Oddly, it was under the new breed of so-called 'master coaches' such as Miljan Miljanic, Vujadin Boskov and Leo Beenhakker that Madrid lost their European way. They regained it partially only in the 1980s when they won the UEFA Cup twice. The show was run by forwards Emilio Butragueno and Hugo Sanchez, midfielders Michel and Rafael Martin Vazquez and central defender Manuel Sanchis, who had a direct line to star-struck president Ramon Mendoza.

The identity of the coach – all dressing-room graduates such as Luis Molowny, Amancio and even Di Stefano – mattered little.

Now fast forward to the seventh Champions Cup in 1998, won despite coach Jupp Heynckes, who was sacked immediately afterwards. Jose Antonio Camacho was appointed but squabbled with president Lorenzo Sanz over his backroom team and walked out after 23 days.

That is how assistant Vicente Del Bosque, to his own surprise, landed the job. He won the Champions League twice but was criticised for being under the thumb of the dressing-room, which is why president Florentino Perez sacked him. Taming the dressing-room was the rationale behind Camacho's appointment. But again, the lesson was clear: it does not take much for Camacho to quit.

Getting down to work... Garcia Remon on the touchline with Roberto Carlos

The cute appointment should always be the man with the dressing-room on his side: the job description of many No 2s, who sit between the coach and the squad, adviser to one, friend to the others. Step forward former goalkeeper Mariano Garcia Remon.

Garcia Remon is the first Madrid-born coach for more than 60 years. He began in goal as a kid with Rayo Vallecano, joined Madrid in 1971 under Munoz and went on to play 314 games, winning six Leagues titles and three Spanish Cups.

After retiring Garcia Remon joined the coaching staff before stepping out into the big wide world with Gijon in 1993. In 1996 he returned briefly to Madrid as stop-gap assistant to caretaker Arsenio Iglesias then he 'escaped' again to Albacete, Las Palmas, Salamanca, Numancia and Cordoba before being brought back this past summer by...Camacho.

Now the pupil is the master. Sort of.

Keir Radnedge

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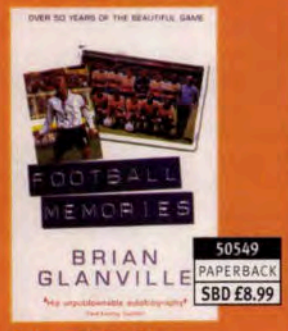

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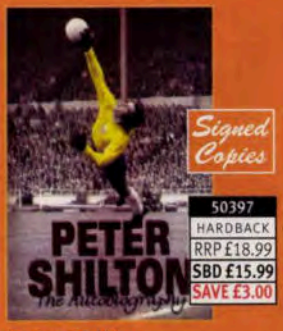

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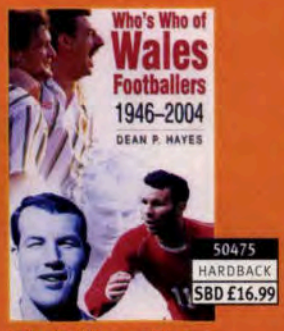

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WSocc NOV 04

Michael Hughes and Robbie Savage are sent off after fighting during the World Cup qualifier between Wales and Northern Ireland in Cardiff. The match ends 2-2

08/09/04

Germany and Brazil draw 1-1 in Berlin in their first meeting since the 2002 World Cup Final. A goal from Germany's Brazil-born striker Kevin Kuranyi cancels out Ronaldinho's early free-kick strike

08/09/04

HEADLINERS

MARCELO BIELSA & JOSE PEKERMAN

Ex-youth team boss becomes Argentina coach after shock resignation

Chain reaction...Pekerman (right) succeeded Bielsa

THE FANS HAD been howling for Marcelo Bielsa's head ever since the 2002 World Cup, for the simple reason that he had failed to win it. They claimed their scalp last month when he suddenly resigned, becoming the first Argentina coach to do so in 30 years.

But despite the supporters' antipathy towards Bielsa and a lack of support from FA officials, in particular president Julio Grondona, the coach's decision was still a surprise. After all, he had finally been enjoying some success, almost winning the Copa America in July, claiming the Olympic gold medal the next month and then resuming the World Cup qualifying campaign with a 3-1 win away to Peru.

However, Bielsa said he no longer had the energy for the job.

Grondona had awarded the coach a new contract after the last World Cup, making him the first Argentina boss to carry on after failing to win the trophy. But the president had also made a pact with River Plate – behind Bielsa's back – that certain of the club's players would not be picked for the national team. More recently, he had advocated former Boca Juniors coach Carlos Bianchi for the job while Bielsa was still in it.

Not surprisingly, therefore, Bianchi was offered the reins immediately after Bielsa quit. However, the former Boca boss declined, saying he had other priorities. The main one was spending time with his family, the same reason Bianchi had given when resigning from Boca two months earlier. However, it was also known he did not get on with Grondona.

So the next choice was former national youth team coach Jose Pekerman, who has always had better relations with the president. Pekerman, who had won three world and two South American titles with the juniors, had been offered the full national team job in 1998. But he refused, saying he was not ready to coach senior players. Instead, he became team manager – a job he held until after the 2002 World Cup, when he resigned citing exhaustion.

Pekerman now felt he was ready to accept, but will he survive until the 2006 World Cup in the more exhausting job of coach? In his favour is the fact that the majority of the current national team squad played under him in junior teams. Also, like Bielsa, he is a hard-working coach, and the two share many of the same ideas.

While the fans and Grondona shed few tears over Bielsa's departure, at least the players seemed sorry to see him go. Nicolas Burdisso said: "Marcelo sees things that other coaches fail to notice. He corrects details to mark, anticipate, how to place yourself in relation to the ball and things that others do not take into account." Juan Pablo Sorin noted that: "Marcelo is a great person, the kind difficult to find in soccer and in life." And team captain Roberto Ayala said his departure was a step back for Argentinian soccer.

Eric Weil

'Marcelo is a great person, the kind difficult to find in soccer and in life'

Argentina player Juan Pablo Sorin expresses regret at Bielsa's departure

Jermain Defoe opens the scoring with a brilliant turn and shot as England beat Poland 2-1 in Chorzow

08/09/04

Early Bundesliga pacesetters Wolfsburg celebrate a comfortable 3-0 victory over Schalke

11/09/04

BRIAN CLOUGH

Tributes pour in after the death of the former Nottingham Forest and Derby manager

SUPPORTERS ACROSS Britain paid tribute to Brian Clough, who died last month from stomach cancer at the age of 69.

Clough won the League title with Derby in 1972, then steered Nottingham Forest from the Second Division to the League title and then European Cup triumphs in 1979 and 1980.

Celtic manager Martin O'Neill, who played under Clough at Forest, said: "He would be the first to say that he was the greatest of all time – he was like England's version of Muhammad Ali. He had a great opinion on football and an opinion on everything else that he didn't have a clue about." **See also Brian Glanville, page 14**

'He would be the first to say that he was the greatest of all time'

Celtic manager and ex-Forest player Martin O'Neill

Paying respects...a minute's silence is held at Forest's City Ground ahead of a League match against West Ham

PAVEL NEDVED & CLAUDE MAKELELE

The latest big names to announce their international retirement

CZECH PAVEL NEDVED, *World Soccer's* reigning World Player of the Year, has announced his retirement from international football with immediate effect (report, page 54).

Meanwhile, Chelsea midfielder Claude Makelele has followed Zinedine Zidane, Marcel Desailly, Lilian Thuram and Bixente Lizarazu in quitting the France team.

"It's finished," said Makelele. "It's set in my head. I will be 33 by the next World Cup, and youngsters who are coming through need experience."

'I will be 33 by the next World Cup, and youngsters who are coming through need experience'

Claude Makelele quits the France team

Notes & quotes

"Sixty, seventy games a season is too many."

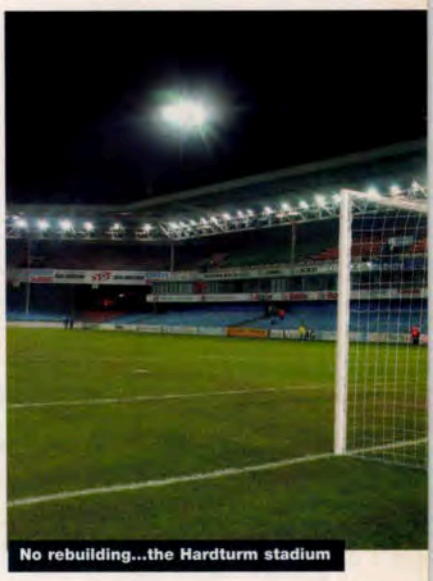
At a UEFA meeting in Stockholm, England boss Sven Goran Eriksson demands a far less taxing schedule for top European clubs.

"I don't give a damn how it looks."

Rudi Voller does a *Gone With The Wind* after just 26 days in charge of Roma.

"It can't be that coaches and referees no longer know what offside is."

Iceland boss Asgeir Sigurvinsson calls for clarification of the rules.



No rebuilding...the Hardturm stadium

"UEFA could decide that defeated candidates are given the opportunity to contest the decision to award Euro 2008 to Austria and Switzerland."

UEFA, unhappy that plans to rebuild the Hardturm stadium in Zurich have been scrapped, warns the Alpine nations that they might have the competition taken from them.

Graeme Souness is presented as the new manager of Newcastle

13/09/04

Panathinaikos beat Rosenborg 2-1 in Athens on the opening night of the Champions League group stage

14/09/04

On his return to France, former Marseille striker Didier Drogba scores his second goal of the night as Chelsea beat Paris Saint-Germain 3-0 to go top of their Champions League group

14/09/04

WS WORLD SOCCER Brian Glanville

...on Brian Clough: the importance of Peter Taylor, the achievements and mistakes, and the drama of a night in Turin

CLOUGH without Taylor? Flanagan without Allen? Morecambe without Wise? Although Brian Clough had seemed to function well without Peter Taylor at his side in his latter years at Nottingham Forest – till things finally went wrong and the team were relegated – Taylor himself told us time and again how important he was to Clough, and there is little doubt of it. It was after all Taylor, when a goalkeeper at Middlesbrough, who encouraged and reassured the young Clough when, just out of the RAF, he was merely third-choice centre-forward at the club. He went on, as we know, to score a multitude of goals.

Similarly, it was Taylor whom Clough, when made manager of humble Hartlepools, persuaded to leave his job as manager of non-League Burton Albion to join him.

Since having his playing career so cruelly ended by a shocking knee injury when playing on a dangerously icy pitch at Sunderland, Clough had again found life hard. He was initially appointed to manage Sunderland's youth team and reportedly made an excellent job of it, before suddenly and inexplicably being sacked. This plunged Clough into despair and what is believed to be his first period of heavy drinking.

But at Hartlepools he and Taylor began their famous ascent.

It was Taylor who, over the years, spotted so many of the players who were to flourish at Derby County and Forest. For example, Taylor persuaded Clough to take the undisciplined but gifted forward Kenny Burns to Forest, where he became such an outstanding centre-back; and it was Taylor who told Clough to look at Garry Birtles, then playing non-League football. Clough would, typically, remark that "even the Oxo was better than Birtles", but sign him he did, and the forward triumphantly filled the gap left by the sale of Peter Withe.

'Clough said "even the Oxo was better than Birtles", but he signed him, and the forward triumphantly filled the gap left by the sale of Withe'

What tends to be forgotten is that both Clough and Taylor had their failures. After they had bitterly fallen out with Derby chairman Sam Longson and his directors, they took over Brighton and Hove Albion, then a Third Division team, with disastrous results. Their manifest error was to treat Brighton's modest players as though they were stars. So came an 8-2 home defeat by Bristol Rovers, and a 4-0 collapse to the amateurs of Walton and Hersham in the FA Cup.

Why Clough should then accept the job as manager of Leeds United, when he had publicly reviled their team and told the players that they should give up the medals they'd won by cheating, who can say? Equally inexplicable was the decision by Leeds to appoint him. He lasted just 44 days, excoriated and abused by Leeds' players, still loyal to Don Revie.

Next, to Forest, where in the first 18 months Clough achieved little, prompting him to persuade Taylor to rejoin him. After that the remarkable sequence of success began. Forest finished only third in the old Second Division, but that was enough to gain promotion to the top flight. Who could have foretold that the following season the club, with such limited resources, would win the championship, then go on to take the European Cup two years running, knocking out Liverpool in their very first European tie?

That Clough was an inspirational manager is beyond doubt. He seldom turned up to training – Peter Shilton, whom he made the most expensive goalkeeper of his time, once told me that when he did, it became "attitude training".

Clough said he despised tactics, yet when they were necessary, as when he forced a 0-0 draw at

Referee Anders Frisk is struck by a missile thrown by a Roma fan

15/09/04

Real Madrid lose 3-0 away to Leverkusen in their Champions League opener

15/09/04

Borussia Dortmund hold Bayern Munich to a 2-2 draw in the Bundesliga

18/09/04

Anfield in the second leg of that European Cup meeting, he and Taylor planned them with skill.

He turned John Robertson, just a plump, pedestrian left-winger when he arrived at Forest, into the tireless fulcrum of the team, roaming the length of the left touchline like a Scottish Zagallo. He rehabilitated Frank Clark, who came from Newcastle as a veteran left-back who seemed to have his best days behind him.

"Cloughie likes a bung," Terry Venables once said, and there is no doubt he and Taylor had their eyes firmly fixed on the main financial chance. Yet my memories of Clough are largely benign; and sometimes dramatic. Such as the aftermath of Derby's 3-1 European Cup semi-final, first leg defeat away to Juventus in 1973.

Clough and Taylor were incensed that German referee Gerhard Schulenburg had booked Archie Gemmill and Roy McFarland for trivial offences, thus keeping them out of the return. Moreover, they believed that Juve's German inside-forward, Helmut Haller, had been in Schulenburg's dressing-room before the game, while at half-time Taylor had angrily tried to break up a conversation between the two, which led to him being hauled away by officials.

'Who could have foretold that after finishing third in the Second Division Forest would win the League title and the European Cup twice?'

So Clough came out of the dressing-room and announced: "No cheating bastards do I talk to! I do not talk to any cheating bastards!"

The Italian journalists clustered round me asking what Clough had said. I kept silent, till Clough reappeared at the door to say: "Tell them what I said, Brian!" Which I did, with all the sensational consequences you'd imagine.

But the other side of Clough was shown when he wished those reporters a safe journey to Derby.

Had he been wrong? One can say only that Juve unquestionably attempted, in vain, to bribe Portuguese Francisco Marques Lobo, the designated referee for the return tie.

One more Clough anecdote, relating to a League Cup tie against Everton at Forest's City Ground. The score was even till near the end when Everton's keeper held on to the ball to waste time. Most referees would have turned a blind eye but this one didn't. He awarded Forest a free-kick in the box, from which they scored the winner. The infuriated Everton players went into their dressing-room and smashed it up.

The next day an anguished cleaning woman approached Brian. "Oh, Mr Clough," she said, "I don't know what to do! That dressing-room's in such a state."

"Leave it!" said Clough. That Saturday, Everton were back for a League match.

Read Brian Glanville's weekly column at www.worldsoccer.com

Notes & quotes

"The players don't realise to what point they hold the power. If they go on strike for three or four weeks and there's no football on TV, it will be chaos."
Pele gives unpaid Brazilian League players encouragement to withhold their labour.

Running for office?...George Weah

"We are thinking of putting forward someone who is exemplary, honest and trustworthy."
Bangalu Cole, the general secretary of the Liberian National Congress party, talks of proposing George Weah as a candidate to become state president.

"Stand down or you'll be killed."
An anonymous phone caller threatens the life of Racing Club coach and former Argentina goalkeeper Ubaldo Fillol.

"He could be the player of the century."
Fenerbahce coach Christoph Daum heralds Wayne Rooney after his hat-trick on his Man Utd debut.

English football mourns former Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough, whose death from stomach cancer aged 69 is announced

20/09/04

Rio Ferdinand returns to action after his nine-month ban for missing a drugs test, helping Manchester United to a 2-1 defeat of Liverpool

20/09/04

French champions Lyon maintain their Toulouse. The result also keeps them

21/09/04

WS WORLD SOCCER **Paul Gardner**

Save us from the sin bin

A 10-minute breather is not the way to punish guilty players

OF ALL THE half-witted, block-headed, addle-pated and terminally stupid notions that from time to time afflict the sport, the business of sin bins surely ranks way up there.

It may be fine for ice hockey or rugby, but makes no sense at all for football. Yet it keeps popping up. Five years ago Gordon Taylor, boss of England's professional players' union, and concerned about the amount of fouling in the game, suggested "maybe we should look at sin bins to cool things down".

Support came from top referee David Elleray, who believed banishing a player to the sin bin would be more effective than a yellow card. As the punishment took effect at once, it provided an immediate benefit to the opposing team.

Nothing came of Taylor's suggestion, but the sin bins have not gone away. The Football League has appointed a working party to study the pros and cons and has stated "it would be fair to say we are quite keen on the idea".

Of course, sin bins would represent a massive change in the laws of the game – one that would need approval from FIFA and the International Board. It is inconceivable that FIFA would give its OK without seeing the results of a season's trial.

But it is all utter nonsense. The sin bin concept is just not suited to soccer. It works well – I'm told – in ice hockey. But the dynamics of the two sports are so hugely different that transferring rules from one to the other hardly presents itself as a workable idea.

Ice hockey has only six players a side in an area less than a quarter of the size of a football field. Play can move from one goalmouth to the other in seconds. It's likely to take a good deal longer in football.

While the puck does not go out of play, the football does, and hoofing it mindlessly down the field is a pretty effective – and utterly ugly – way of wasting time, a key manoeuvre when temporarily playing short-handed.

When an ice hockey player is sent to the bin, that removes 17 per cent of the team. A footballer accounts for only 9 per cent of his side. The significance of these differences becomes clear when we try to decide how long a footballer should have to spend in the bin.

'Making it clear teams will be deducted points for excessive violent, cynical or tactical fouling is a much more promising approach'

Ice hockey is played in three 20-minute periods, the clock is stopped when play stops, so there is a genuine 60-minute playing time. The basic time spent in the sin bin is two minutes, although you can get 10 minutes for something horrendous.

Although football matches last for 90-plus minutes, we are told the actual time the ball is in play is closer to 60 minutes. Just like ice hockey – yet to use a two-minute suspension in football would be absurd.

Double it? But four minutes is also ridiculous. Ten is about acceptable, but for minor offences, of course, because there would surely have to be a tariff of increasing severity.

The maximum might be 20 minutes, which means a player sin-binned in the final 15 minutes or so of a game is 'getting away with it' by not having to serve the full penalty.

What about the tactical absurdity? If there's one thing football does not need it's a law that further encourages coaches to play defensively. Yet that's exactly what compelling a team to play short-handed must do.

You've had a player binned, so you're down to 10 men – but only for 10 minutes. What do you do? At the very least, you turn cautious and find ways of wasting time. At worst, you pull everyone back and kill the game. More to the point, it isn't even a formula that will help the opposition, who against 10 men determined only to defend are unlikely to produce any goals.

We can do without all of this. But the fact the sin bin keeps

unbeaten start to the season with a 2-0 win at top of the table

Zlatan Ibrahimovic is on target as Juventus continue their impressive start to the season with a 3-0 win at Sampdoria

22/09/04

Real Madrid lose again in the Spanish League, this time 2-1 to Athletic Bilbao

25/09/04

cropping up tells us football has a persistent problem needing solving.

Baldly stated, there is way too much fouling. In particular, too much of the disruptive, game-destroying fouling that is not overtly physical, and certainly doesn't warrant a red card, maybe not even a yellow.

But if cards are considered too harsh, a meaningless midfield free-kick is felt to be too lenient. The laws are seen as not offering the referee a sensible middle way – and the sin bin is supposed to be that way.

A clampdown on diving, and now sin bins, are misguided solutions that dodge the heart of the problem.

Yet when a solution was put forward that really did get to grips with the matter – the ban on tackling from behind – it was soon watered down, or simply not applied. The red cards became yellows, the yellows were replaced by a finger-wagging from the referee, and the fouling continues.

We hear – openly discussed and lauded – the concept of the 'good' foul, the 'professional' foul, the 'what-else-could-he-do?' attitude.

That is what needs to be attacked. Having players relaxing in sin bins for a few minutes won't do it. Making it clear violent, cynical or tactical fouling will be severely punished just might. Deducting points from a team for excessive fouling is a much more promising approach than sin bins.

ESM EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES

TEAM OF THE MONTH – SEPTEMBER 2004

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HOW THEY VOTED

FOOT (Blg)
Buffon (Juventus); Cris (Lyon), Cannavaro (Juventus), Van Bronckhorst (Barcelona); Makelele (Chelsea), Ronaldinho (Barcelona), Deco (Barcelona), Vicente (Valencia); Adriano (Inter), Makaay (Bayern Munich), Bojinov (Lecce)

GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT (Ita)
Buffon (Juventus); Miguel (Benfica), Ricardo Carvalho (Chelsea), Cannavaro (Juventus), Heinze (Manchester United); Reyes (Arsenal), Xavi (Barcelona), Essien (Lyon), Vicente (Valencia); Rooney (Manchester United), Adriano (Inter)

A BOLA (Por)
Cech (Chelsea); Miguel (Benfica), Ricardo Carvalho (Chelsea), Cannavaro (Juventus), Cole (Arsenal); Cristiano Ronaldo (Manchester United), Pedro Mendes (Tottenham), Ronaldinho (Barcelona), Reyes (Arsenal); Rooney (Manchester United), Eto'o (Barcelona)

DON BALON (Spa)
Buffon (Juventus); Maicon (Monaco), Hofland (Wolfsburg), Cole (Arsenal); Xavi (Barcelona), Emerson (Juventus), Essien (Lyon), Vicente (Valencia); Adriano (Inter), Eto'o (Barcelona), Makaay (Bayern Munich)

VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (Hol)
Cech (Chelsea); Cris (Lyon), Terry (Chelsea), Van Bronckhorst (Barcelona); Reyes (Arsenal), Emerson (Juventus), Albelda (Valencia), Vicente (Valencia); Makaay (Bayern Munich), Adriano (Inter), Eto'o (Barcelona)

KICKER (Ger)
Robinson (Tottenham); Cannavaro (Juventus), Terry (Chelsea), Jankulovski (Udinese); Ronaldinho (Barcelona), Xavi (Barcelona), Kallon (Monaco), Vicente (Valencia); Eto'o (Barcelona), Makaay (Bayern Munich), Adriano (Inter)

TIPS-BLADET (Den)
Cech (Chelsea); Hinkel (Stuttgart), Puyol (Barcelona), Ricardo Carvalho (Chelsea), Heinze (Manchester United); Baraja (Valencia), Xavi (Barcelona), Emerson (Juventus), Giuly (Barcelona); Makaay (Bayern Munich), Adriano (Inter)

SPORT-EXPRESS (Rus)
Buffon (Juventus); Thuram (Juventus), Cannavaro (Juventus), Van Bronckhorst (Barcelona); Reyes (Arsenal), Vieira (Arsenal), Ronaldinho (Barcelona), Ljungberg (Arsenal); Eto'o (Barcelona), Adriano (Inter), Drogba (Chelsea)

WORLD SOCCER (UK)
Cech (Chelsea); Cannavaro (Juventus), Nesta (Milan), Oddo (Lazio); Blasi (Inter), Vicente (Valencia), Reyes (Arsenal), Ronaldinho (Barcelona); Makaay (Bayern Munich), Eto'o (Barcelona), Rooney (Manchester United)

FANATIK (Tur)
Cech (Chelsea); Cannavaro (Juventus), Campbell (Arsenal), Puyol (Barcelona), Thiam (Wolfsburg); Borowski (Werder Bremen), Lampard (Chelsea), Gokdeniz (Trabzonspor); Makaay (Bayern Munich), Adriano (Inter), Eto'o (Barcelona)

Monaco beat Deportivo La Coruna 2-0 in the Champions League

28/09/04

Wayne Rooney celebrates scoring a breathtaking hat-trick on his Manchester United debut

28/09/04

Werder Bremen impress with a 2-1 win over Valencia

29/09/04

A 3-1 win in Warsaw gives Austria Wien a comfortable aggregate victory over Legia in the UEFA Cup

30/09/04

WS WORLD SOCCER **Tim Vickery**

Goals are the only statistic that matter

Numbers game is up

"SANITY is not statistical," murmurs Winston Smith in George Orwell's *1984* as he starts to understand the world around him.

A trip to the Maracana stadium might drive him mad if, like me, he was sitting alongside the group earnestly gathering data at a match.

"Accurate pass by No 8," they yell as the ball is blasted towards a team-mate at an awkward height, with the wrong weight and keeping the play so close that loss of possession is almost inevitable. For statistical purposes, though, it is a success.

"Inaccurate pass by No 10," as a delightful ball is played inside the opposing full-back. It would have put the striker clean through had he not chosen this moment for a mid-match siesta, but down it goes as a failure.

Think of the options available to a player who wants to pass the ball – right foot or left, along the ground or in the air, long or short, to feet or into space, inside or outside of the foot, forwards, backwards or to the side. Obviously all of this cannot be encapsulated by mere numbers.

The fluid nature of football defies the kind of strict statistical analysis that is appropriate in so many sports. It is also one of the main reasons for the game's worldwide success. Because it can be interpreted in so many different ways, peoples and nations can express themselves through their approach to football.

"As you live, so you play," goes the saying in Argentina. Football is all about identity exactly because it cannot be expressed only in numbers.

That is why recent attempts to bombard coverage of the game with statistics are missing the point. Our friends in the Maracana can tell us which player on the field gave the most passes, but so what?

To find out which player gave the most effective passes we need to open our eyes and switch on our brains. The sad truth for statisticians is that, without analysis, numbers in football are largely meaningless. There is, of course, one glaring exception – goals. The act of putting the ball into the net is so significant and so difficult, since plenty of good passers are unable to do it, that it is clearly a special case.

The new favourite, the assist, is often a bogus statistic, an individual arbitrarily given credit for good collective play. The goalscorer, by contrast, earns his moment of fame.

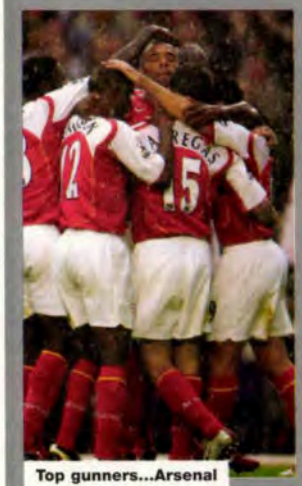
A few years ago the Botafogo attack was formed by the sleek and magical Bebeto, and Tulio, a born goal-hanger. Once Bebeto took out the entire defence, and rolled the ball across for his colleague to tap in. Tulio wheeled away to accept the plaudits, only to find a splendid Rio eccentric charging down the terraces yelling: "Fraudster, conman! It's as if the son of Rockefeller was going around saying 'I built America! I built America!' "

Anyone who has to take that kind of abuse just for doing his job deserves to see his name in the morning's papers.

'The new favourite, the assist, is frequently a bogus statistic, an individual arbitrarily given credit for good collective play'

CNN/WORLD SOCCER CLUB OF THE MONTH

1	Arsenal
2	Barcelona
3	Chelsea
4	Juventus
5	Milan
6	Valencia
7	Lyon
8	Man United
9	Werder Bremen
10=	Monaco
	River Plate



Top gunners...Arsenal

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Voller makes quick exit

The German lasts just 26 days as Roma coach after a chaotic start to the season

PADDY AGNEW in Rome

FOR BETTER OR for worse, and mainly it was for worse, it was hard to get away from Roma for most of the first month of the new season.

In this column last month, I highlighted the last-minute, eve-of-season appointment of former Germany boss Rudi Voller as Roma coach. Called in to take over from Cesare Prandelli, who had stepped down in order to help his wife in her battle with cancer, Voller had arrived in Rome full of enthusiasm and heartened by the warm welcome afforded him by Roma fans who remember him fondly from his days as a brave, battling centre-forward at the club.

Little did anyone imagine that the German was destined to last only 26 days on the Roma bench.

However, even in the club's opening day 1-0 home win against Fiorentina there were signs of trouble ahead. Roma gave the impression of being a long way short of full fitness, indicating that as the coaches were coming and going during the close season, the squad had had a less than thorough preparation.

Four days after the Fiorentina game, Roma struggled throughout the first half of their Champions League tie at home to Kyiv Dynamo. Outpaced and outmanoeuvered by the lively Ukraine side, the hosts were lucky to be trailing by only one goal at half-time.

At that point, of course, off-the-field events prompted injured referee Anders Frisk to suspend the match. The Swede suffered a nasty cut, requiring three stitches, after being hit by a metal object, perhaps a one euro coin, thrown from the VIP section of the main grandstand as he was making his way to the dressing-rooms. He said he took his decision to stop the game because he

Flashpoint... Roma defender Mexes inspects the damage after kicking Kyiv Dynamo striker Verpakovskis, an act for which the Frenchman was sent off

feared both for his own safety and that of his collaborators.

Given that Roma had already been in trouble with UEFA, following incidents at a Champions League game against Galatasaray three seasons ago, the club feared heavy punishment. In the end, they probably got off lightly because, while the 'win' and three points were awarded to Dynamo, Roma were not banned from playing at the Olimpico stadium, but rather forced to play their two remaining home group games behind closed doors.

In essence, UEFA appeared to accept Roma's argument that they really could not be held responsible for what club director Franco Baldini called "the mad act of one person" (still to be identified, by the way). Baldini and Roma have a point, but I was at the Olimpico that night and would suggest that the coin-throwing incident had at least something to do with the climate and context in which the game was played.

Roma took to the pitch against Dynamo in a less than ideal physical and mental state. Just hours before the game, Voller had had a blazing row with star striker Antonio Cassano that resulted in the player being dropped from the team and sent home.

Frustration mounts

During the game itself the Roma players (and public) became increasingly frustrated that they were being outplayed by Dynamo. Roma captain Francesco Totti, looking slow and seemingly carrying an injury, spent much time appealing to the referee for protection from the admittedly rough treatment handed out to him by the opposition defenders. At first, Frisk told Totti to get on with the game and shut up. Later, to the great annoyance of Totti and the home fans, he booked the skipper for a late tackle. The fact that no Dynamo defender had been booked for fouls on Totti did not go unnoticed by the Olimpico faithful.

Roma then gave further signs of nervous tension when on the stroke of half-time French defender Philippe Mexes delivered a nasty, bad-tempered little kick to the legs of Dynamo's Latvian striker, Maris Verpakovskis. Mexes did so right in front of the referee, who had little choice but to send him off. It was at that juncture, as Frisk made his way to the dressing-room steps, that all hell broke loose.

Roma's problems were further underlined four days later when they faded in the second half of a 4-3 away loss to little Messina. Then came a 2-2 home draw with Lecce before a fateful game in Bologna. Roma were three goals down by half-time and so inept that they failed to make anything of the two-player advantage they held for practically all of the second half, following the dismissals of Giacomo Cipriani and Theo Zagorakis. As Voller watched powerlessly from the touchline, he looked part furious, part perplexed.

Notwithstanding Roma's dreadful, lifeless performance against Bologna, it was still a surprise when the German handed in his cards immediately after the game. He explained later: "Not all the players were with me, therefore it made no sense to stay. I tried to impose order and discipline on the squad, even if I am not your typical German who arrives and immediately throws a few people out. No, I try to talk to players, to convince them. Throwing players out of the team, however, wasn't the answer and when, in the end, I saw that I wasn't obtaining a more disciplined approach, then I left."

Voller's replacement is former Chievo coach Gigi Del Neri, the man who this summer spent almost as little time on the Porto bench as Voller on the Roma one. Del Neri, sacked in mysterious circumstances by the Portuguese champions, arrived in Rome to sign a £750,000-per-year contract right on the eve of a home clash with Inter and just one day after Roma had lost again, this time 4-2 to Real Madrid in the Champions League.

Del Neri's new-look side acquitted themselves well in a thrilling 3-3 draw with Inter, showing a refreshing willingness to battle for the full 90 minutes. It also augurs well that his initial instructions to the squad include a ban on cell phones at the training centre and on the team bus, while latecomers at training will be heavily fined.

All eyes will be focused on Del Neri's relationship with Cassano. It did not go unnoticed that Roma's *enfant terrible* did not appreciate being substituted during the Inter game, and the club's rivals are already beginning to ask themselves if Cassano will be in the market place come January's transfer window.

Messina's good mix

Elsewhere, the first seasonal plaudits go to little Messina, who by the middle of October found themselves in second place in Serie A just behind new-look Juventus.

Messina appear to have the classic ingredients for success for the newly-promoted in Serie A. For a start, they have an experienced coach in Bortolo Mutti. They also have a squad that blends useful journeymen players such as strikers Nicola Amoruso and Riccardo Zampagna with real talent like Ivory Coast defender Marco Andre Zoro. Another major plus is the phenomenal enthusiasm of the fans, whose team last played Serie A football 39 years ago.

Put all the ingredients together and you have a side that won four and drew one of their first five games, defeating both Roma and champions Milan (at the San Siro) along the way.

Mutti is the first to admit that he has been surprised by his side's brilliant start. He and the Messina fans should make the most of it. History suggests that such bright starts by the new boys tend to have a short shelf life.

Crowds mean money...the San Paolo

● Napoli, one of the historic powerhouses of Italian football, have been reborn following their collapse this summer. Now under the ownership of cinema tycoon Aurelio De Laurentis, the club have been 'relegated' to Serie C1 (Third Division), where the 60,000-plus crowds they attract to the San Paolo stadium will bring badly needed funds to the entire division.

C1 teams can expect some £40,000 each in gate receipts from visiting the San Paolo, and another £20,000 from a TV deal struck by De Laurentis.

'Not all the players were with me. Therefore it made no sense to stay' *Rudi Voller*

Dragons lose their fire

FC Porto, the Portuguese and European champions, are struggling to repeat the successes of recent seasons

PEDRO PINTO
in Lisbon

RISE AND FALL of the Empire of the Dragon. It sounds like the title of a new martial arts film, but it's the perfect way to describe the recent fortunes of European and Portuguese champions FC Porto. After conquering all who lay before them, they have suddenly crumbled, struggling in both the domestic Superliga and the Champions League.

It was always going to be a challenge for the club to continue a historic run of five trophies in two seasons. After all, inspirational coach Jose Mourinho left the Stadium of the Dragon (Dragao) for Chelsea during the summer, and was followed out of the door by several key players. However, few expected Porto to make their worst start to a League season since 1993. Now, even the keenest supporters fear both titles they hold will be lost this term.

The signs were there for all to see early in pre-season. Luigi Del Neri, brought in to replace Mourinho, was sacked after only seven weeks as a result of player power. The Italian's training methods did not please most of the squad's veterans, who convinced president Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa to let him go. This meant a

Tough going... Diego is harried by Claude Makelele during Porto's Champions League defeat by Chelsea

new coach had to be found only days before a date with Benfica in the Portuguese Supercup. In came Victor Fernandez. Young and dynamic, the Spaniard quickly stated that he would make sure Porto would once again be major title contenders both at home and abroad.

But these words may have been spoken too soon. Here was a man who did not quite know what he was dealing with. The departure of Deco, Paulo Ferreira and Ricardo Carvalho meant the backbone of Mourinho's winning team had gone. Even though the club brought in a number of talented youngsters, a lot of work remained to be done.

Cause for concern

The match against Benfica was Fernandez's debut, and although a 1-0 win ensured Porto started the season with a trophy, the team's performance was cause for concern and had critics predicting a shift of power in Portugal. The match had belonged to Benfica, and only the Reds' ineptitude in front of goal, combined with one moment of inspiration from new signing Ricardo Quaresma, allowed Porto to win.

One week later, the Dragons weren't so lucky. Once again a side lacking identity failed to create any clear-cut chances and were beaten by Valencia in the European Supercup. It was back to the drawing board for Fernandez, with the League season starting the following weekend.

With more time on his hands, he finally decided on his tactics. He would play 4-3-3, exploring the pace of wide men Quaresma and Derlei, and relying on two new Brazilian signings to strike down the middle – playmaker Diego, bought from Santos, and striker Luis Fabiano, from Sao Paulo. The plan may have looked good on paper but it did not produce results. Diego's inability to impose himself in the opening game of the season, away to Sporting Braga, contributed to a stale team performance, and they could only draw, 1-1.

Porto also drew their next two League matches, both at home, to make it their worst start to a season in 11 years. Furthermore, a 33-match winning streak at home had been broken. The media had a field day and speculated on whether Fernandez would soon be following Del Neri out of the door. However, he received a vote of confidence from Pinto da Costa and soon won his first game. A 1-0 victory at Guimaraes ended a five-game winless streak, easing the strain on a young side struggling to cope with the pressure.

Champion finish...Jose Mourinho

CLASS OF 2003-04: MOURINHO'S PORTO

CLASS OF 2004-05: FERNANDEZ'S PORTO

Needing solutions...Victor Fernandez

But Porto's struggles were not limited to domestic competitions. At the beginning of October, the defending champions were still looking for their first win in the Champions League. A home draw with CSKA Moscow combined with a 3-1 defeat at former boss Mourinho's Chelsea meant they ran the risk of failing to make the second stage of the competition. Fernandez, faced with finding a winning formula, has to do it fast.

Diego sacrifice?

A change in formation could help build a more solid unit, but it will be interesting to see whether Fernandez is willing to sacrifice a creative midfielder in favour of another striker. Diego may have plenty of talent, but he needs time to adapt to the pace of the European game and may benefit from time on the sidelines. Furthermore, Luis Fabiano, who is often left stranded in attack, could well benefit from the support of Helder Postiga, Benni McCarthy or even Carlos Alberto, scorer of a handful of crucial goals for Porto at the end of last season.

There are also questions at the back, where a successor to Ricardo Carvalho has yet to be found. New signing Pepe from Maritimo does not have the talent or class of his predecessor, and while veteran Jorge Costa still possesses leadership skills, his lack of pace has already been exposed. Another new signing, Greek international full-back Giorgios Seitaridis, has yet to hit his stride, and an injury to Nuno Valente has forced Fernandez to use inexperienced Ricardo Costa as cover.

The result has been a back line struggling to find its footing, much like the rest of the side, meaning the team who not so long ago ruled Europe must now fight just for the right to belong.

'Diego has talent but needs time to adapt to the pace of the European game'

Going backwards

The self-destructive clubs have cancelled out all the recent progress in the domestic game

BRIAN HOMEWOOD in Rio de Janeiro

THERE WAS A time not so long ago when at least a handful of Brazil's clubs appeared to have embraced concepts such as long-term planning, stability for the coach and prudent signings. Clubs such as Sao Paulo, Gremio and Palmeiras were, for a while at least, islands of professionalism in a sea of bumbling incompetence.

Now, however, it seems that all Brazil's clubs are united in their quest for all-out self-destruction.

Just as the Brazilian federation has taken a step forward by embracing the idea of a proper national championship, the clubs have collectively taken 10 steps backwards – almost as if they were trying to sabotage the new format.

Take defending champions Cruzeiro. Last year they were being upheld as a model of good organisation after winning the title for the first time. Almost immediately, however, the club imploded.

Colombian striker Victor Hugo Aristizabal and veteran midfielder Zinho were offloaded to make way for World Cup winner Rivaldo, while forward Marcio Nobre was dispatched to Fenerbahce. Then, title-winning coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo was sacked and Rivaldo went with him in sympathy after just 50 days at the club.

The writing was on the wall when Cruzeiro were knocked out of the Libertadores Cup in the second round by Colombia's Deportivo Cali, having been outplayed over the two legs.

Undeterred, the directors continued dismantling their team. Goalkeeper Gomes left for PSV Eindhoven, central defender Cris to Lyon, playmaker Alex to Fenerbahce and right-back Maicon to Monaco.

Coach Paulo Cesar Gusmao was fired and replaced by Emerson Leao. He lasted only two months before falling out with the squad. In desperation, the club poached Marco Aurelio from Ponte Preta, four years after having unceremoniously ditched him in favour of Luiz Felipe 'Big Phil' Scolari.

In the midst of all this chaos, the club plummeted to 14th in the table. In a desperate attempt to reverse the trend, they brought back Argentina defender Juan Pablo Sorin, who had been revered by the fans when he played for Scolari's team.

Red-card welcome

But his homecoming summed up Cruzeiro's season: after a rapturous reception on his home debut against Atletico Paranaense, Sorin gave away a penalty and was sent off on the stroke of half-time. Atletico, trailing 1-0 at the time, equalised from the spot-kick and ran riot in the second half as they raced to a 4-2 win.

The situation is little better elsewhere. Rather than put their faith in their young players, clubs prefer to spend money on journeymen professionals who flit from one team to another, rarely spending more than six months in the same place.

Meanwhile, players are being sold abroad faster – and younger

– than ever before. After holding on to Diego for 18 months after winning the Brazilian championship, Santos have finally let him go to Porto. The European champions also snapped up the other big name still left in Brazil, Luis Fabiano, from Sao Paulo.

Both these players can at least be expected to make an impact and establish themselves firmly in Europe. Often, however, players only spend a few months abroad before returning.

Midfielder Ricardinho, a reserve in the 2002 World Cup squad, left Sao Paulo earlier this year, spent six months at Middlesbrough without getting a minute of first-team football, and is now with Santos. Deivid, who played for Cruzeiro last year, was also back, this time with Santos, after less than one year with Bordeaux.

It is no coincidence that Brazilian clubs, who dominated the Libertadores Cup during the 1990s with two wins for Sao Paulo and one each for Vasco da Gama, Gremio, Cruzeiro and Palmeiras, are now playing second fiddle, even to clubs from countries at which Brazilian football usually sneers. Since 'Big Phil' led Palmeiras to Brazil's last Libertadores title in 1999, a procession of clubs from Argentina, Paraguay and Colombia has walked off with the trophy.

This year, Sao Paulo went the furthest of the Brazilian clubs, losing in the semi-finals to eventual champions Once Caldas from Colombia. Santos fell victim to the same team in the quarter-finals, while Deportivo Cali accounted for Cruzeiro in the previous round. Coritiba fell at the first hurdle (in a group from which the qualifiers were Rosario Central of Argentina and Sporting Cristal of Peru) while Sao Caetano were beaten by Boca Juniors on penalties in the quarter-finals.

The way we were ...Vanderlei Luxemburgo, Rivaldo and Alex in better times at Cruzeiro

The Dance of the Coaches is another problem. Thirty-two fell in the first 32 rounds of matches, a quite astonishing rate of one victim per match day. But don't be fooled into thinking Brazilian coaching is a cut-throat business. Rather, it is a cosy club in which offers of employment always spring up for the members once they are in.

Joel Santana is a typical case. In the past two years, his record has been of consistent failure and he has been sacked by Vitoria, Fluminense, Guarani and Internacional. Yet, when Geninho resigned as coach of Vasco da Gama following a 5-2 home defeat by Palmeiras, they had no hesitation in giving him yet another bite of the cherry.

On taking over, Santana said: "This is not the first or the last time that I'm going to work here. Vasco have always taken me in." In other words: "I might get sacked again in a few months but I'm sure they'll give me another chance in a few years' time."

'This is not the first or the last time I'm going to work here. Vasco have always taken me in'

Joel Santana spells out the advantage of being a member of the cosy club of Brazilian coaches

Santana comes from the 60-foul-a-match school of Brazilian coaching, where systematic fouling in midfield is considered acceptable, and his first move was to announce that he would be packing his midfield with bruisers and fielding a 4-5-1 formation away to fellow strugglers Parana.

Old boys' network

Of the 24 coaches who began the championship, 17 were still in charge at press time but only four (Antonio Lopes at Coritiba, Ivo Wortmann at Juventude, Celso Roth at Goias and Dorival Junior at Figueirense) were still with the clubs where they started. All the others had been given new jobs by the old boys' network despite failing in their first ones, apart from Paulo Campos, who started at Parana, resigned and was then re-appointed a few weeks later.

The difficult part is entering the circuit, and the most recent arrivals are Paulo Bonamigo and Cuca. Bonamigo took Coritiba to a respectable fifth place last year and was rewarded with a job at Atletico Mineiro. Having failed to reproduce the same success, he resigned and then took over at struggling Botafogo. Cuca, meanwhile, earned his place by leading Goias's charge up the table last season. That earned him a prestigious job with Sao Paulo, where he lasted eight months before resigning and taking over at Gremio.

In the midst of all this and faced with the new minimum ticket price of £3, fans have voted by staying away. The average attendance for Brazilian championship matches this year has been a shade over 7,000 – a paltry figure for a country supposed to be passionate about the game and the worst since the infamous 1979 championship which featured 98 clubs.

Only two matches in the entire championship – Palmeiras v Corinthians and Corinthians v Sao Paulo – have managed to pull in crowds of over 30,000, and even then the giant Morumbi stadium in Sao Paulo was less than half full. The lowest attendance was for Juventude v Coritiba, a meagre 236.

Still cutting a dash...Robinho

● This year's relegation and title races have developed into quite intriguing battles. Traditionally-powerful clubs such as Flamengo, Vasco da Gama, Atletico Mineiro and Gremio have all been fighting to avoid relegation (four clubs go down) alongside usual strugglers Parana, Guarani, Vitoria and Botafogo. The latter, promoted back only last year, spent the first 32 rounds in the danger zone before a 4-3 win over Parana took them above the line for the first time.

At the other end, Santos and Atletico Paranaense were still neck and neck at the top with 13 rounds to play, although Santos had the edge in the number of games won – the first criterion used to separate teams.

Only four players – Leo, Andre Luis, Elano and Robinho – remain from Santos' memorable 2002 team but Robinho has been in fine fettle, scoring 19 goals and playing as irreverently and cheekily as ever.

Atletico's challenge has been led by striker Washington, back after a miserable year in Turkey, and Dagoberto, another quick and slippery striker in the Robinho mould. Washington is the leading scorer with 21 goals, one ahead of Goias's Alex Dias.

Unfortunately, when the two leaders met and drew 1-1, the match was utterly devalued by typically thoughtless organisation. What should have been a showpiece game took place late on the same day Brazil played Germany in a friendly and did not even get national television coverage.

Brian Homewood

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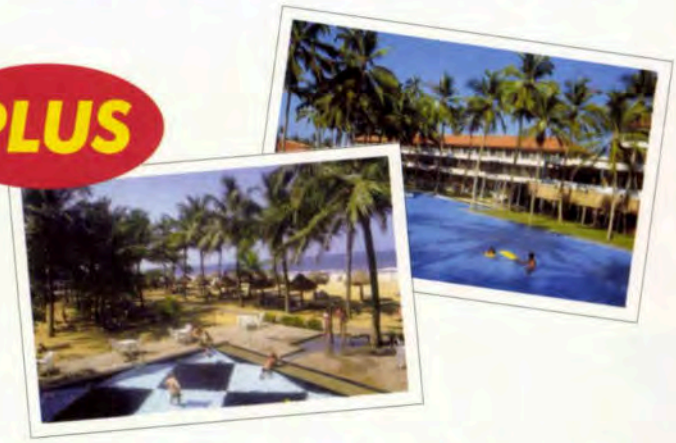

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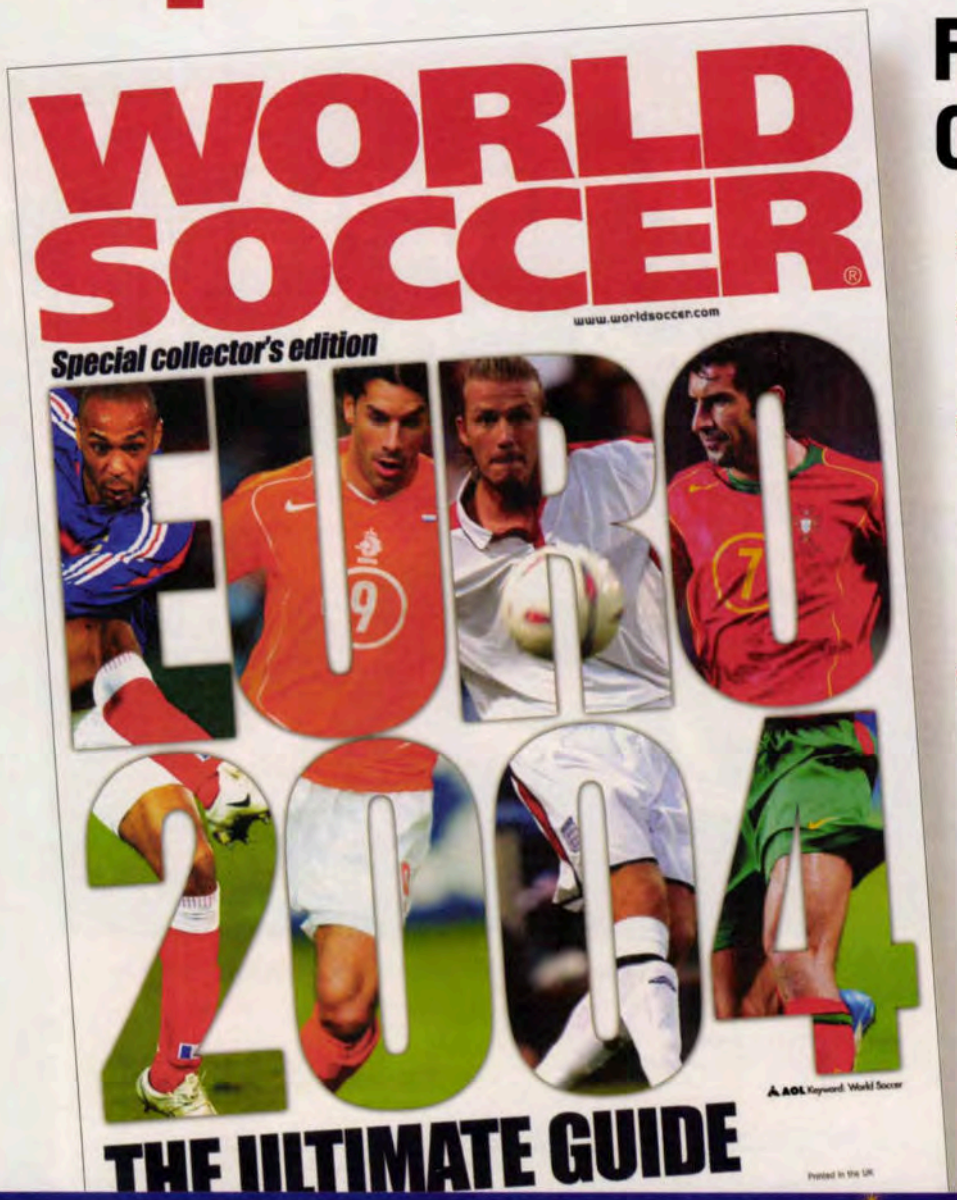

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In Diego's footsteps

The latest Argentinian to be dubbed the 'new Maradona' is destined to move to Europe. But how will he fare? Tim Vickery speculates

AS ARGENTINA LIMPED sadly away from the last World Cup they cursed their luck or cursed their coach, but soon found it hard to escape one clear conclusion – they were not quite as good as they thought they were.

True, they had some excellent players. But it was also apparent, and has become more so over the subsequent two years, they lacked the devastating individual ability that could tip the balance at international level or for a top European club side.

Gabriel Batistuta no longer had his acceleration; Ariel Ortega had shown once more that he was more smoke than fire; the careers of Juan Sebastian Veron and Hernan Crespo have lost momentum; and the likes of Juan Roman Riquelme, Javier Saviola and Andres D'Alessandro have not grabbed European football by the throat as many hoped they might.

Perhaps 20-year-old Carlos Tevez is the man. Could the eight-goal Olympic gold-winning hero give Argentina a cutting edge in the 2006 World Cup or shine in one of the top European leagues?

Just as Brazil struggled for ages to overcome the absence of Pele, so Argentina have still to slide out from the shadow of Maradona. Now the emergence of another stockily-built kid from the shanty towns is seen by some as a second coming.

"Tevez deserves to be compared with Maradona," said Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa shortly before his shock resignation, "because he awakes the dream in everyone. Only time will tell whether or not the comparison is really justified. He surprises and delights with his magic, but there are still lots of stages that he has to go through."

One of the obvious stages is a move to Europe, an adjustment seldom easy for any South American and which may prove especially difficult for the Boca Juniors player. For example, what position would he play? "I always say I'm a No 9," says Tevez. "If I have to play deeper I do it for the team. But I don't feel the same, because my greatest strengths are close to the opposing goal."

His analysis is undoubtedly correct. With his low centre of gravity he can slalom through packed defences. His quick thinking and sure touch enable him to thread passes into the penalty area. And then there is his speciality: receiving the ball with his back to goal on the edge of the box and spinning with such speed and strength that he is hard to stop by legal means. It all makes him one of the world's most exciting talents. But it does not make him a typical centre-forward in European football.

'His style does not make him a typical centre-forward in European football'

Tevez will never be much of a threat in the air, and he is not especially quick over the ground. In Argentina this is not a problem since the ball is more often than not played to feet. But in Europe the ball is frequently struck in front of the player, and Tevez seems less suited to this type of service.

He could prove more effective in the hole behind the main striker. It would take him further from goal, but might teach him more about playing without the ball and timing his runs into the box.

Then there is the question of how he would react to European refereeing. Even in South America he can become frustrated and pick up yellow cards when fouls are not given his way. In Europe much more physical contact is allowed.

The Olympic side put Tevez in his natural habitat: two wingers giving pace and width, three attacking midfielders giving options in and around the area, and high-tempo, pass-and-move football all round.

"It was one of my best experiences," says Tevez, who scored the only goal of the Final against Paraguay. "I really enjoyed myself in this team."

Europe may be less to his liking. And now Bielsa has gone there is no guarantee Argentina will be able to reproduce the Athens gold blend.

The challenges are sure to get stiffer for Tevez. Those who have been thrilled by his football over the past two years will hope he is equal to them.

Last of the romantics

Paddy Agnew on the unconventional Czech coach who is back in Serie A

ON THE DAY last June that Zdenek Zeman's return to Serie A was formally ratified with his appointment as coach of Lecce, the Czech maestro offered a few choice words that boded well for the future.

Asked if he considered Serie A survival his priority for the forthcoming season, Zeman replied: "Lecce have played some good football in recent seasons but I hope to add to that. As for avoiding relegation, well I don't like talking about that at the start of the season. I prefer to start from the top, there's always plenty of time to drop down."

Good as his word, the 57-year-old has marked his return to Serie A in style, leading a Lecce side that thus far has played in the attacking tradition of Zeman teams. By the end of September, little Lecce had scored more goals than any other side and were riding high in joint second place with Messina, two points behind Juventus.

In many senses, no one should have been surprised. Zeman is not for changing. Be it a matter of his style of play or of speaking his mind on questions such as doping in football, the Prague-born coach is consistent.

Not previously widely known outside Italy, Zeman earned himself worldwide headlines in summer 1998 when denouncing what he claimed were widespread doping practices in Italian football. In particular, he pointed a finger at the training methods used by Juventus, suggesting that players such as Gianluca Vialli and Alessandro Del Piero had made abnormal physical improvement. His words prompted a judicial inquiry, which eventually led to Juve ending up in the dock in a still ongoing 'doping' trial in Turin. Not surprisingly, his words earned plaudits from the media and fans but resentment and enmity from fellow professionals.

Conspiracy theory

There are those who claim Zeman's outspoken accusations are the real explanation for why, since leaving Roma in May 1999, he had not coached in Serie A – with the exception of a brief spell at Napoli in autumn 2000. Such a claim may owe as much to the Italian love of the conspiracy theory as to hard fact. What is sure is that now he is back in Serie A, we are likely to be hearing a lot from him.

Given his origins, Zeman was always likely to be a rather different type of coach. His father, Karel, was head physician at a Prague hospital, and his uncle, Cestmir Vycpalek, had a spell as coach of Juventus. Indeed, the 21-year-old Zdenek was in Italy in summer 1968 visiting his uncle when Soviet tanks trundled into Prague to crush the budding freedom movement.

Although Zeman returned to Prague, he was back in Italy within a year, studying sports medicine in Palermo, and was destined to stay in the country. After several years coaching with amateur clubs in and around the Sicilian city, he finally got his first break in professional football, partly thanks to his uncle, when landing the job of youth team coach at Palermo in 1974.

From there, the graph of his career over the next 15 years shows a slow but steady upward curve as he became head coach at Fourth Division side Licata, Third Division Foggia and then Second Division Parma and Messina (where, incidentally, he 'discovered' Italia 90 hero Toto Schillaci).

For Zeman, however, the real career-turning point came in summer 1989 when he was recalled to Foggia, by then in Serie B. Within two seasons and with a low-cost squad featuring previously little known players such as Beppe Signori, Francesco Baiano and Roberto Rambaudi, he had taken the little Puglia club into Serie A.

Widely expected to last only one season in the top flight, Foggia stayed for three, in the process playing some bold, attacking football that regularly embarrassed the big boys. Zeman had established himself as genuine Serie A material, and it was no surprise when he got called to Rome, first to Lazio, where he spent two and a half seasons, and then Roma, for two seasons. Second- and third-place finishes with Lazio and a fourth-place finish with Roma were proof that Zeman's methods could work at a big club – silencing those who argued that his hard-running game, based on a high level of squad fitness, could only work at a smaller club, where player appetites were greater and egos smaller.

However, since leaving Roma Zeman's career graph hit a serious downward curve. He lasted only three turbulent months with Turkish club Fenerbahce in the 1999-2000 season before his equally shortlived time on the Napoli bench. Since then, he has been plying his craft in Serie B, first for two seasons with Salernitana and then with Avellino, where he ended a disappointing season last term with relegation to the Third Division.

Those of us who predicted further hard times for Zeman at Lecce have thus far been proved wrong. In the wake of the departure of outstanding Uruguayan striker Javier Chevanton to Monaco, it had seemed only logical to suggest Lecce would have difficulty maintaining the high standards of last season, when finishing a best-ever 10th in Serie A.

But if anything, Lecce look stronger under Zeman than his predecessor, Delio Rossi. Operating in the Czech's usual 4-3-3 formation, Lecce have a useful front line featuring Bulgarian wunderkind Valeri Bojinov, experienced Croat Sasa Bjelanovic and Alex Pinardi. In midfield, Samuele Dalla Bona and Uruguayan Guillermo Giacomazzi have liberty to attack, with only Argentinian Cristian Ledesma tied to a largely defensive role. Ex-Palermo keeper Vincenzo Sicignano looks solid, as do the defence, led by the experienced Lorenzo Stovini and also featuring Mali central defender Souleymane Diamoutene as well as right-back Marco Cassetti. The latter, in the best Zeman tradition, is under orders to move forward whenever possible, something he has done to good effect, scoring two goals in Lecce's first four games.

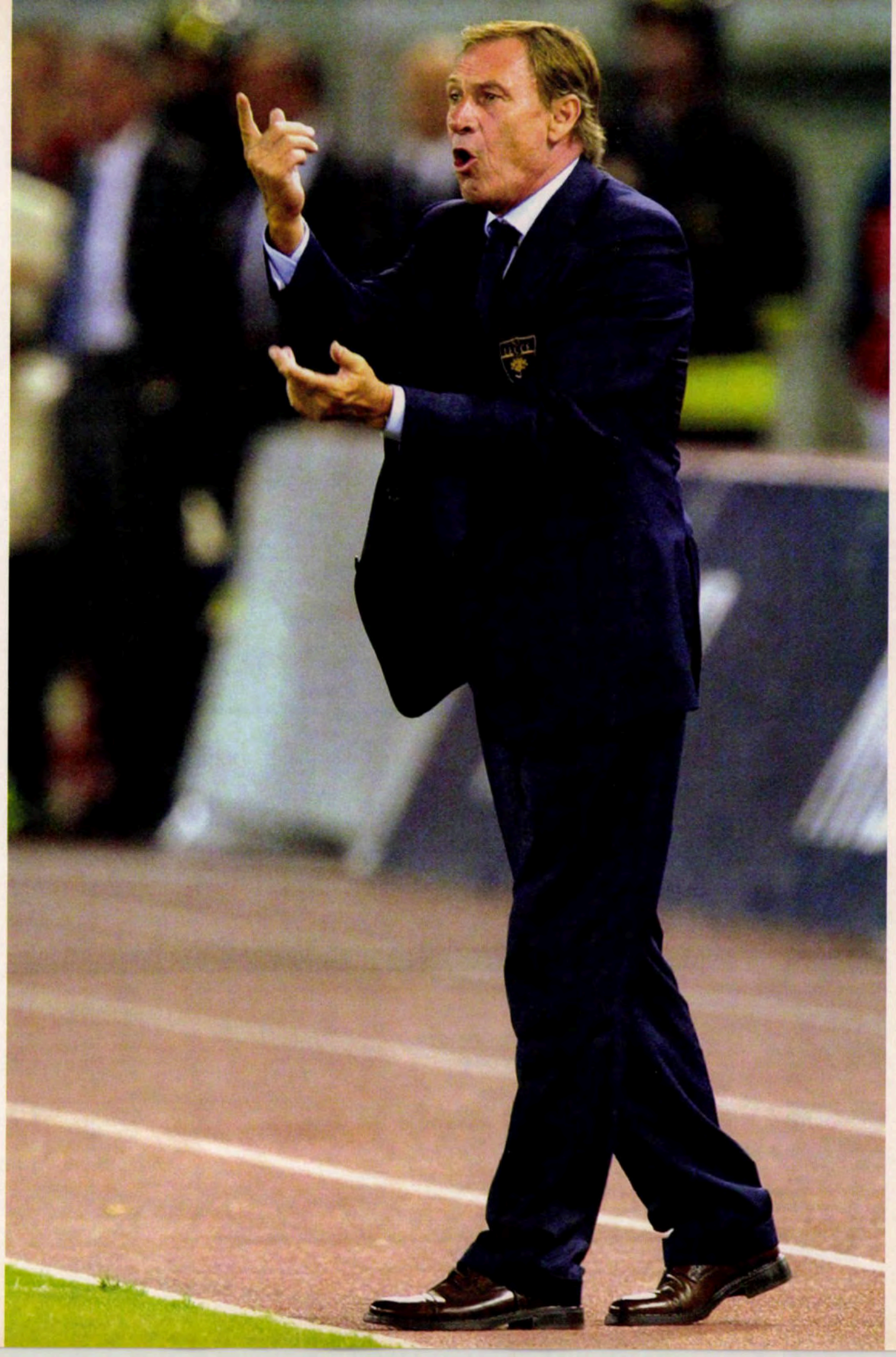
Attack-minded

Bjelanovic, now in his third season in Italy after spells with Como, Chievo, Perugia and Genoa, gives some indication of Zeman's influence when saying: "Ever since I've been in Italy, coaches have told me to stick with my marker, to drop back to the halfway line to help out my team-mates. With Zeman, however, we're always looking to score, even if we're leading 4-1 and it means taking a risk. Zeman also surprised me when he told us one day that our basic game plan does not change according to who our opponents are."

'At Lazio and Roma, Zeman silenced those who said his hard-running game could only work at a smaller club'

The Croat's words are echoed by reports of Zeman's behaviour during Lecce's 2-2 draw with Roma. At one point in the second half, with the score at 2-2, the coach was heard to reprimand his players, shouting from the bench: "What are you doing? There are six of you back there defending and only four of you up in attack!"

Lecce are unlikely to win anything this season but they are certain to provide plenty of entertainment, in keeping with the Zeman philosophy. While he is clearly not a total romantic, Zeman is nonetheless someone not totally at ease in the modern Foot-Biz world. One of his most famous and most often quoted statements makes the point: "Football's great popularity worldwide owes nothing to high finances or pharmaceutical companies but rather everything to the fact that in every square in every village in every corner of the world there's a child playing and amusing himself with a ball at his feet. The problem about today's football is that it is ever more an industry and ever less a game."



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ARSENAL

GOALKEEPERS

24	Manuel ALMUNIA (Spa)	19.05.77
1	Jens LEHMANN (Ger)	10.11.69
13	Stuart TAYLOR	28.11.80

DEFENDERS

23	Sol CAMPBELL	18.09.74
22	Gael CLICHY (Fra)	26.07.85
3	Ashley COLE	20.12.80
18	Pascal CYGAN (Fra)	29.04.74
31	Justin HOYTE	20.11.84
12	LAUREN Etame-Mayer (Cam)	10.01.77
20	Philippe SENDEROS (Swi)	14.02.85
28	Habib Kolo TOURE (IvC)	19.03.81

MIDFIELDERS

17	EDU (Bra)	16.05.78
15	Francesc FABREGAS (Spa)	04.05.87
16	Mathieu FLAMINI (Fra)	07.03.84
19	GILBERTO SILVA (Bra)	07.10.76
8	Fredrik LJUNGBERG (Swe)	16.04.77
7	Robert PIRES (Fra)	29.10.73
4	Patrick VIEIRA (Fra)	23.06.76

FORWARDS

30	Jeremie ALIADIERE (Fra)	30.03.83
10	Dennis BERGKAMP (Hol)	10.05.69
14	Thierry HENRY (Fra)	17.08.77
21	Jermaine PENNANT	15.01.83
9	Jose Antonio REYES (Spa)	01.09.83
11	Robin VAN PERSIE (Hol)	06.08.83

MANAGER

Arsene WENGER (Fra)	22.09.49

ASTON VILLA

GOALKEEPERS

25	Wayne HENDERSON (Ire)	16.09.83
13	Stefan POSTMA (Hol)	06.10.76
1	Thomas SORENSEN (Den)	16.09.83

DEFENDERS

6	Gareth BARRY	23.02.81
2	Mark DELANEY (Wal)	13.05.76
20	Vaclav DROBNY (Cze)	09.09.80
5	Martin LAURSEN (Den)	26.07.77
4	Olof MELLBERG (Swe)	03.08.77
19	Liam RIDGEWELL	21.07.84
3	Jlloyd SAMUEL	29.03.81

MIDFIELDERS

16	Matthieu BERSON (Fra)	23.02.80
30	Stephen COOKE	15.02.83
24	Stephen DAVIS (NI)	01.01.85
15	Ulises DE LA CRUZ (Ecu)	02.08.74
7	Lee HENDRIE	18.05.77
12	Thomas HITZLSPERGER (Ger)	05.04.82
8	Gavin McCANN	10.01.78
10	Nolberto SOLANO (Per)	12.09.70
17	Peter WHITTINGHAM	08.09.84

FORWARDS

8	Juan Pablo ANGEL (Col)	24.10.75
18	Carlton COLE	12.11.83
22	Luke MOORE	13.02.86
10	Darius VASSELL	13.06.80

MANAGER

David O'LEARY (Ire)	02.05.58

BIRMINGHAM

GOALKEEPERS

12	Ian BENNETT	10.01.71
13	Colin DOYLE (Ire)	12.08.85
1	Maik TAYLOR (NI)	04.09.71
18	Nico VAESEN (Blg)	28.09.69

DEFENDERS

3	Jamie CLAPHAM	07.12.75
4	Kenny CUNNINGHAM (Ire)	28.06.71
20	Martin GRAINGER	23.08.72
29	Mario MELCHIOT (Hol)	04.11.76
30	Samuel OJI	
23	Matthew SADLER	26.02.85
15	Martin TAYLOR	09.11.79
2	Olivier TEBILY (Fra)	19.12.75
5	Matthew UPSON	18.04.79

MIDFIELDERS

32	Darren ANDERTON	03.03.72
24	Darren CARTER	18.12.83
25	Stephen CLEMENCE	31.03.78
16	David DUNN	27.12.79
21	Julian GRAY	21.09.79
7	Jesper GRONKJAER (Den)	12.08.77
6	Muzzy IZZET (Tur)	31.10.74
22	Damien JOHNSON (NI)	18.11.78
17	Neil KILKENNY	19.12.85
11	Stan LAZARIDIS (Aus)	16.08.72
28	Carl MOTTERAM	03.09.84
8	Robbie SAVAGE (Wal)	18.10.74

FORWARDS

27	Andrew BARROWMAN (Sco)	27.11.84
9	Mikael FORSSELL (Fin)	15.03.81
16	Emile HESKEY	11.01.78
19	Clinton MORRISON (Ire)	14.05.79
33	Dwight YORKE (T&T)	03.11.71

MANAGER

Steve BRUCE	31.12.60

BLACKBURN

GOALKEEPERS

13	Peter ENKELMAN (Fin)	10.03.77
1	Brad FRIEDEL (USA)	18.05.71
26	David YELLDELL (USA)	01.10.81

DEFENDERS

4	Lorenzo AMORUSO (Ita)	29.06.71
21	Jonathan DOUGLAS (Ire)	22.11.81
33	Michael GRAY	03.08.74
23	Vratislav GRESKO (Slk)	24.07.77
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11	Javier DE PEDRO (Spa)	04.08.73
15	Youri DJORKAEFF (Fra)	09.03.68
7	Brett EMERTON (Aus)	22.02.79
16	Barry FERGUSON (Sco)	02.01.78
5	Garry FLITCROFT	06.11.72
12	Morten GAMST PEDERSEN (Nor)	08.08.81
14	Nils-Eric JOHANSSON (Swe)	13.01.80
18	Steven REID (Ire)	10.03.81
20	David THOMPSON	12.09.77
3	TUGAY Kerimoglu (Tur)	24.08.70

FORWARDS

27	Jay BOTHROYD	05.05.82
10	Paul DICKOV (Sco)	01.11.72
19	Paul GALLAGHER (Sco)	09.08.84
17	Matt JANSEN	20.10.77
9	Jonathan STEAD	07.04.83

MANAGER

Mark HUGHES (Wal)	01.11.63

BOLTON

GOALKEEPERS

22	Jussi JAASKELAINEN (Fin)	19.04.75
13	Andy OAKES	11.01.77
1	Kevin POOLE	21.07.63

DEFENDERS

2	Anthony BARNESS	25.03.73
31	Charlie COMYN-PLATT	02.10.85
20	Fernando HIERRO (Spa)	23.03.68
16	IVAN CAMPO (Spa)	21.02.74
15	Radhi JAIDI (Tun)	30.08.75
3	JULIO CESAR (Bra)	17.11.78
17	Florent LAVILLE (Fra)	07.08.73
5	Bruno N'GOTTY (Fra)	10.06.71
32	Jason TALBOT	

MIDFIELDERS

26	Tal BEN-HAIM (Isr)	31.03.82
11	Ricardo GARDNER (Jam)	25.09.78
7	Stelios GIANNAKOPOULOS (Gre)	12.07.74
18	Nicky HUNT	03.09.83
24	Blessing KAKU (Nig)	05.03.78
4	Kevin NOLAN	24.06.82
10	Jay-Jay OKOCHA (Nig)	14.08.73
6	Gary SPEED (Wal)	08.09.69

FORWARDS

8	Michael BRIDGES	05.08.78
14	Kevin DAVIES	26.06.75
21	El Hadji DIOUF (Sen)	15.01.81
23	Les FERDINAND	18.12.66
9	Henrik PEDERSEN (Den)	10.06.75
28	Ricardo VAZ TE (Por)	01.10.86

MANAGER

Sam ALLARDYCE	19.10.54

CHARLTON

GOALKEEPERS

16	Stephan ANDERSEN (Den)	26.11.81
1	Dean KIELY (Ire)	10.10.70
26	Paul RACHUBKA	21.05.81
25	Simon ROYCE	09.09.71

DEFENDERS

15	Talal EL-KARKOURI (Mor)	08.07.76
6	Mark FISH (SAf)	14.03.74
24	Jonathan FORTUNE	23.08.80
12	Hermann HREIDARSSON (Ice)	11.07.74
7	Radostin KISHISHEV (Bul)	30.07.74
18	Paul KONCHESKY	15.05.81
5	Chris PERRY	26.04.73
3	Chris POWELL	08.09.69
28	Osei SANKOFA	19.03.85
23	Michael TURNER	09.11.83
2	Luke YOUNG	19.07.79

MIDFIELDERS

22	Jamal CAMPBELL-RYCE	06.04.83
34	Barry FULLER	25.08.84
8	Matt HOLLAND (Ire)	11.04.74
20	Bryan HUGHES	19.06.76
30	Stacy LONG	11.01.85
29	Neil McCAFFERTY (Ire)	19.07.84
13	Danny MURPHY	18.03.77
19	Dennis ROMMEDAHL (Den)	22.07.78
31	Lloyd SAM	27.09.84
4	Graham STUART	24.10.70
14	Jerome THOMAS	23.03.83

FORWARDS

17	Shaun BARTLETT (SAf)	31.10.72
9	Jason EUELL	06.02.77
11	Francis JEFFERS	25.01.81
21	Jonatan JOHANSSON (Fin)	16.08.75
10	Kevin LISBIE	17.10.78
33	Alex VARNEY	27.12.84

MANAGER

Alan CURBISHLEY	08.11.57

CHELSEA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Petr CECH (Cze)	20.05.82
23	Carlo CUDICINI (Ita)	06.09.73
40	Lenny PIDGELEY	07.02.84

DEFENDERS

3	Celestine BABAYARO (Nig)	29.08.78
18	Wayne BRIDGE	05.08.80
13	William GALLAS (Fra)	17.09.77
29	Robert HUTH (Ger)	18.08.84
2	Glen JOHNSON	23.08.84
33	NUNO MORAIS (Por)	29.01.84
30	PAULO FERREIRA (Por)	18.01.79
26	John TERRY	07.12.80

MIDFIELDERS

10	Joe COLE	08.11.81
11	Damien DUFF (Ire)	03.03.79
14	GEREMI Njitap (Cam)	20.12.78
8	Frank LAMPARD	20.06.78
4	Claude MAKELELE (Fra)	18.02.73
19	Scott PARKER	13.10.80
16	Arjen ROBBEN (Hol)	23.01.84
5	Alexei SMERTIN (Rus)	01.05.75
30	TIAGO Mendes (Por)	02.05.81

FORWARDS

15	Didier DROGBA (IvC)	11.03.78
22	Eidur GUDJOHNSEN (Ice)	15.09.78
9	Mateja KEZMAN (Ser)	12.04.79
7	Adrian MUTU (Rom)	08.01.79
28	Filipe OLIVEIRA (Por)	27.05.84

MANAGER

Jose MOURINHO (Por)	26.01.63

CRYSTAL PALACE

GOALKEEPERS

13	Cedric BERTHELIN (Fra)	25.12.76
28	Gabor KIRALY (Hun)	01.04.76
1	Julian SPERONI (Arg)	18.05.79

DEFENDERS

18	Gary BORROWDALE	16.07.85
21	Emmerson BOYCE	24.09.79
2	Danny BUTTERFIELD	21.11.79
3	Danny GRANVILLE	19.01.75
25	Fitz HALL	20.12.80
5	Mark HUDSON	30.03.82
12	Mikele LEIGERTWOOD	12.01.82
6	Tony POPOVIC (Aus)	07.04.73
20	Darren POWELL	10.03.76
26	Gonzalo SORONDO (Uru)	09.10.79
33	Kit SYMONS (Wal)	08.03.71

MIDFIELDERS

16	Tommy BLACK	26.11.79
4	Shaun DERRY	06.12.77
17	Michael HUGHES (NI)	02.08.71
22	Joonas KOLKKA (Fin)	28.09.74
32	Vassilis LAKIS (Gre)	10.09.76
15	Aki RIIHILAHTI (Fin)	09.09.76
7	Wayne ROUTLEDGE	07.01.85
19	Tom SOARES	10.07.86
14	Ben WATSON	09.07.85

FORWARDS

23	Wayne ANDREWS	25.11.77
9	Dougie FREEDMAN (Sco)	21.01.74
8	Andrew JOHNSON	10.02.81
24	Ivan KAVIEDES (Ecu)	24.10.77
11	Neil SHIPPERLEY	30.10.74
10	Sandor TORGHELLE (Hun)	05.05.82
27	Nicola VENTOLA (Ita)	24.05.78

MANAGER

Iain DOWIE (NI)	09.01.65

EVERTON

GOALKEEPERS

25	Nigel MARTYN	11.08.66
37	Ian TURNER	26.01.84
1	Richard WRIGHT	05.11.77

DEFENDERS

23	Eddie BOSNAR (Aus)	29.04.80
27	Peter CLARKE	03.01.82
22	Tony HIBBERT	20.02.81
15	Gary NAYSMITH (Sco)	16.11.78
3	Alessandro PISTONE (Ita)	27.07.75
4	Alan STUBBS	06.10.71
2	Steve WATSON	01.04.74
5	David WEIR (Sco)	10.05.70
20	Joseph YOBO (Nig)	06.09.80

MIDFIELDERS

17	Tim CAHILL (Aus)	06.12.79
26	Lee CARSLEY (Ire)	28.02.74
16	Thomas GRAVESEN (Den)	11.03.76
14	Kevin KILBANE (Ire)	01.02.77
12	Li Tie (Chn)	18.09.77
21	Leon OSMAN	17.05.81

FORWARDS

7	Marcus BENT	19.05.78
9	Kevin CAMPBELL	04.02.70
19	Nick CHADWICK	26.10.82
10	Duncan FERGUSON (Sco)	27.12.71
11	James McFADDEN (Sco)	14.04.83

MANAGER

David MOYES (Sco)	24.04.63

FULHAM

GOALKEEPERS

12	Mark CROSSLEY (Wal)	16.06.69
13	Ross FLITNEY	01.06.84
1	Edwin VAN DER SAR (Hol)	29.10.70

DEFENDERS

3	Carlos BOCANEGRA (USA)	25.05.79
18	Jerome BONNISSEL (Fra)	11.04.73
24	Alain GOMA (Fra)	05.10.72
6	Zat KNIGHT	02.05.80
22	Dean LEACOCK	10.06.84
35	Ian PEARCE	07.05.74
37	Liam ROSENIOR	09.07.84
2	Moritz VOLZ (Ger)	21.01.83

MIDFIELDERS

11	Luis BOA MORTE (Por)	04.08.77
25	Malik BUARI (Gha)	24.01.84
10	Lee CLARK	27.10.72
14	Papa Bouba DIOP (Sen)	28.01.78
29	Sean DOHERTY	10.05.85
20	Claus JENSEN (Den)	29.04.77
5	Sylvain LEGWINSKI (Fra)	06.10.73
4	Steed MALBRANQUE (Fra)	06.01.80
36	Billy McKINLAY (Sco)	22.04.69
7	Mark PEMBRIDGE (Wal)	28.11.70
31	Darren PRATLEY	22.04.85
21	Zesh REHMAN	14.10.83

FORWARDS

9	Andrew COLE	15.10.71
15	Collins JOHN (Hol)	17.10.85
34	Elvis HAMMOND (Gha)	06.10.80
8	Brian McBRIDE (USA)	19.06.72
33	Stuart NOBLE	14.10.83

MANAGER

Chris COLEMAN (Wal)	06.10.70

LIVERPOOL

GOALKEEPERS

1	Jerzy DUDEK (Pol)	23.03.73
40	Paul HARRISON	18.12.84
22	Chris KIRKLAND	02.05.81
29	Patrice LUZI (Fra)	08.07.80

DEFENDERS

23	Jamie CARRAGHER	28.01.78
3	Steve FINNAN (Ire)	20.04.76
2	Stephane HENCHOZ (Swi)	07.09.74
4	Sami HYYPIA (Fin)	07.10.73
17	JOSEMI (Spa)	15.11.79
21	Djimi TRAORE (Fra)	01.03.80
37	Zak WHITEBREAD	04.03.84

MIDFIELDERS

25	Igor BISCAN (Cro)	04.05.78
15	Salif DIAO (Sen)	10.02.77
8	Steven GERRARD	30.05.80
16	Dietmar HAMANN (Ger)	27.08.73
7	Harry KEWELL (Aus)	22.09.78
12	Antonio NUNEZ (Spa)	15.01.79
26	Richie PARTRIDGE (Ire)	12.09.80
34	Darren POTTER	21.12.84
6	John Arne RIISE (Nor)	24.09.80
28	Stephen WARNOCK	12.12.81
25	XABI ALONSO (Spa)	25.11.81

FORWARDS

5	Milan BAROS (Cze)	28.10.81
9	Djibril CISSE (Fra)	12.08.81
10	LUIS GARCIA (Spa)	24.06.78
33	Neil MELLOR	04.11.82
24	Florent SINAMA-PONGOLLE (Fra)	20.10.84

MANAGER

Rafael BENITEZ (Spa)	04.04.60

MANCHESTER CITY

GOALKEEPERS

25	Geert DE VLIEGER (Blg)	16.10.71
1	David JAMES	01.08.70
21	Ronald WATERREUS (Hol)	25.08.70
12	Nicky WEAVER	02.03.79

DEFENDERS

27	Mikkel BISCHOFF (Den)	03.02.82
5	Sylvain DISTIN (Fra)	16.12.77
22	Richard DUNNE (Ire)	21.09.79
43	Patrick McCARTHY (Ire)	31.05.83
18	Danny MILLS	13.02.75
2	David SOMMEIL (Fra)	10.08.74
17	SUN Jihai (Chn)	30.09.77
3	Ben THATCHER (Wal)	30.11.75

MIDFIELDERS

24	Joey BARTON	02.09.82
26	Paul BOSVELT (Hol)	26.03.70
44	Wilo FLOOD (Ire)	10.04.85
20	Steve McMANAMAN	11.02.72
30	Christian NEGOUAI (Fra)	20.01.78
6	Claudio REYNA (USA)	20.07.73
10	Antoine SIBIERSKI (Fra)	05.08.74
28	Trevor SINCLAIR	02.03.73
29	Shaun WRIGHT-PHILLIPS	25.10.81

FORWARDS

39	Nicolas ANELKA (Fra)	13.03.79
8	Robbie FOWLER	09.04.75
11	Jonathan MACKEN	07.09.77

MANAGER

Kevin KEEGAN	14.02.51

MANCHESTER UNITED

GOALKEEPERS

13	Roy CARROLL (NI)	30.09.77
1	Tim HOWARD (USA)	06.03.79

DEFENDERS

26	Phillip BARDSLEY	28.06.85
6	Wes BROWN	13.10.79
5	Rio FERDINAND	07.11.78
4	Gabriel HEINZE (Arg)	19.04.78
2	Gary NEVILLE	18.02.75
3	Philip NEVILLE	21.01.77
22	John O'SHEA (Ire)	30.04.81
28	Gerard PIQUE (Spa)	02.02.87
27	Mickael SILVESTRE (Fra)	09.08.77
29	Jonathan SPECTOR (USA)	01.03.86
39	Paul TIERNEY	15.09.82

MIDFIELDERS

7	CRISTIANO RONALDO (Por)	05.03.85
19	Eric DJEMBA DJEMBA (Cam)	04.05.81
33	Chris EAGLES	19.11.85
24	Darren FLETCHER (Sco)	01.02.84
25	Quinton FORTUNE (Saf)	21.05.77
11	Ryan GIGGS (Wal)	29.11.73
16	Roy KEANE (Ire)	10.08.71
15	KLEBERSON (Bra)	19.06.79
17	Liam MILLER (Ire)	13.02.81
23	Kieron RICHARDSON	21.10.84
18	Paul SCHOLES	16.11.74

FORWARDS

12	David BELLION (Fra)	27.11.82
8	Wayne ROONEY	24.10.85
9	Louis SAHA (Fra)	08.08.78
14	Alan SMITH	28.10.80
20	Ole Gunnar SOLSKJAER (Nor)	26.02.73
10	Ruud VAN NISTELROOY (Hol)	01.07.76

MANAGER

Alex FERGUSON (Sco)	31.12.41

MIDDLESBROUGH

GOALKEEPERS

22	Bradley JONES (Aus)	19.03.82
12	Carlo NASH	13.09.73
1	Mark SCHWARZER (Aus)	06.10.72

DEFENDERS

23	Colin COOPER	28.02.67
24	Andrew DAVIES	17.12.84
4	Ugo EHIOGU	03.11.72
21	Stuart PARNABY	19.07.82
3	Franck QUEUDRUE (Fra)	27.08.78
2	Michael REIZIGER (Hol)	03.05.73
5	Chris RIGGOTT	01.09.80
6	Gareth SOUTHGATE	03.09.70
28	Andrew TAYLOR	01.08.86

MIDFIELDERS

7	George BOATENG (Hol)	05.09.75
20	DORIVA (Bra)	28.05.72
19	Stewart DOWNING	22.07.84
14	Gaizka MENDIETA (Spa)	17.03.74
34	James MORRISON	25.05.86
15	Ray PARLOUR	07.03.73
17	Mark WILSON	09.02.79
32	Boudewijn ZENDEN (Hol)	15.08.76

FORWARDS

11	Malcolm CHRISTIE	11.04.77
18	Jimmy Floyd HASSELBAINK (Hol)	27.03.72
16	Joseph-Desire JOB (Cam)	01.12.77
8	Szilard NEMETH (Slk)	08.08.77
36	Mark VIDUKA (Aus)	09.10.75

MANAGER

Steve McCLAREN	03.05.61

NEWCASTLE

GOALKEEPERS

24	Tony CAIG	11.04.74
1	Shay GIVEN (Ire)	20.04.76
12	Steve HARPER	03.02.74

DEFENDERS

35	Olivier BERNARD (Fra)	14.10.79
19	Titus BRAMBLE	21.07.81
2	Steve CARR (Ire)	29.08.76
3	Robbie ELLIOTT	25.12.73
18	Aaron HUGHES (NI)	08.11.79
25	Ronny JOHNSEN (Nor)	10.06.69
5	Andy O'BRIEN (Ire)	29.06.79
42	Peter RAMAGE	22.11.83
27	Steven TAYLOR	23.01.86

MIDFIELDERS

17	Darren AMBROSE	29.02.84
29	Lee BOWYER	03.01.77
39	Martin BRITTAIN	29.12.84
4	Nicky BUTT	21.01.75
8	Kieron DYER	29.12.78
7	Jermaine JENAS	18.02.83
22	Jamie McCLEN	13.05.79
32	Laurent ROBERT (Fra)	21.05.75

FORWARDS

23	Shola AMEOBI	12.10.80
10	Craig BELLAMY (Wal)	13.01.79
28	Michael CHOPRA	23.12.83
11	Patrick KLUIVERT (Hol)	01.07.76
16	James MILNER	04.01.86
9	Alan SHEARER	13.08.70

MANAGER

Graeme SOUNESS (Sco)	06.05.53

NORWICH

GOALKEEPERS

12	Paul GALLACHER (Sco)	16.08.79
1	Robert GREEN	18.01.80
21	Darren WARD (Wal)	11.05.74

DEFENDERS

11	Jim BRENNAN (Can)	08.05.77
16	Simon CHARLTON	25.10.71
27	Gary DOHERTY (Ire)	31.01.80
3	Adam DRURY	29.08.78
17	Marc EDWORTHY	24.12.72
5	Craig FLEMING	06.10.71
26	Thomas HELVEG (Den)	24.06.71
24	Jason SHACKELL	27.09.83

MIDFIELDERS

20	Damien FRANCIS	27.02.79
22	Ian HENDERSON	24.01.85
8	Gary HOLT (Sco)	09.03.73
18	Paul McVEIGH (NI)	06.12.77
7	Phillip MULRYNE (NI)	01.01.78
15	Youssef SAFRI (Mor)	03.01.77

FORWARDS

10	David BENTLEY	27.08.84
6	Darren HUCKERBY	23.04.76
23	Ryan JARVIS	11.07.86
14	Leon McKENZIE	17.05.78
19	Mathias SVENSSON (Swe)	24.09.74

MANAGER

Nigel WORTHINGTON (NI)	04.11.61

PORTSMOUTH

GOALKEEPERS

30	Jamie ASHDOWN	30.11.80
1	Shaka HISLOP (T&T)	22.02.69
25	Harald WAPENAAR (Hol)	10.04.70

DEFENDERS

6	Arjan DE ZEEUW (Hol)	16.04.70
24	Richard DUFFY	30.08.85
5	Hayden FOXE (Aus)	23.06.77
16	Andy GRIFFIN	17.03.79
27	Eddie HOWE	29.11.77
2	Linvoy PRIMUS	14.09.73
3	Dejan STEFANOVIC (Ser)	28.10.74
14	Matthew TAYLOR	27.11.81
4	David UNSWORTH	16.10.73

MIDFIELDERS

23	Patrik BERGER (Cze)	10.11.73
10	Eyal BERKOVIC (Isr)	02.04.72
18	Aliou CISSE (Sen)	24.03.76
28	Shaun COOPER	05.10.83
15	Amdy FAYE (Sen)	12.03.77
22	Richard HUGHES (Sco)	15.06.79
21	Diomansy KAMARA (Fra)	08.11.80
35	Valery MEZAGUE (Cam)	08.12.83
26	Gary O'NEIL	18.05.83
11	Nigel QUASHIE (Sco)	20.07.78
8	Steve STONE	20.08.71

FORWARDS

20	Yakubu AIYEGBENI (Nig)	22.11.82
19	Ricardo FULLER (Jam)	31.10.79
32	Lomana LUA LUA (DRC)	28.12.80
9	Svetoslav TODOROV (Bul)	30.08.78

MANAGER

Harry REDKNAPP	02.03.47

SOUTHAMPTON

GOALKEEPERS

28	Alan BLAYNEY (NI)	09.10.81
1	Antti NIEMI (Fin)	31.05.72
13	Paul SMITH	17.12.79

DEFENDERS

32	Chris BAIRD (NI)	25.02.82
16	Michael CRANIE	26.09.86
2	Jason DODD	02.11.70
19	Danny HIGGINBOTHAM	29.12.78
6	Andreas JAKOBSSON (Swe)	08.10.72
22	Darren KENTON	13.09.78
3	Graeme LE SAUX	17.10.68
5	Claus LUNDEKVAM (Nor)	22.02.73
26	Matthew MILLS	14.07.86
11	Michael SVENSSON (Swe)	25.11.75
4	Jelle VAN DAMME (Blg)	10.10.83
15	Alledine YAHIA (Tun)	26.09.81

MIDFIELDERS

23	Aaron DAVIES (Wal)	22.06.84
18	Rory DELAP (Ire)	06.07.76
29	Fabrice FERNANDES (Fra)	29.10.79
31	Yoann FOLLY (Fra)	06.06.85
30	Leandre GRIFFIT (Fra)	21.05.84
34	Kenwyne JONES (T&T)	05.01.84
10	Neil McCANN (Sco)	08.11.74
35	Mikael NILSSON (Swe)	24.06.78
8	Matthew OAKLEY	17.08.77
20	David PRUTTON	12.09.81
12	Anders SVENSSON (Swe)	17.07.76
33	Paul TELFER (Sco)	21.10.71
21	Jo TESSEM (Nor)	28.02.72

FORWARDS

9	James BEATTIE	27.02.78
27	Leon BEST	19.09.86
24	Dexter BLACKSTOCK	20.05.86
36	Brett ORMEROD	18.10.76
17	Marian PAHARS (Lat)	05.08.76

MANAGER

Steve WIGLEY	15.10.61

TOTTENHAM

GOALKEEPERS

21	Marton FULOP (Hun)	03.05.83
13	Kasey KELLER (USA)	27.11.69
1	Paul ROBINSON	15.10.79

DEFENDERS

5	Goran BUNJEVCEVIC (Ser)	17.02.73
14	Erik EDMAN (Swe)	11.11.78
30	Anthony GARDNER	19.09.80
29	Philip IFIL	18.11.86
34	Stephen KELLY	06.09.83
26	Ledley KING	12.01.80
21	Mbulelo MABIZELA (Saf)	16.09.80
2	Noureddine NAYBET (Mor)	10.02.70
17	Noe PAMAROT (Fra)	14.04.79
36	Dean RICHARDS	09.06.74
3	Mauricio TARICCO (Arg)	10.03.73

MIDFIELDERS

24	Thimothee ATOUBA (Cam)	16.02.83
23	Michael CARRICK	28.07.81
7	Simon DAVIES (Wal)	23.10.79
4	Sean DAVIS	20.09.79
32	Johnnie JACKSON	15.08.82
31	Dean MARNEY	31.01.84
8	PEDRO MENDES (Por)	26.02.79
15	Jamie REDKNAPP	25.06.73
27	Rohan RICKETTS	22.12.82
	Reto ZIEGLER (Swi)	16.01.86

FORWARDS

22	Lee BARNARD	18.07.84
18	Jermain DEFOE	07.10.82
20	EDSON SILVA (Por)	03.09.83
9	Frederic KANOUTE (Fra)	02.09.77
10	Robbie KEANE (Ire)	08.07.80

MANAGER

Jacques SANTINI (Fra)	25.04.52

WEST BROM

GOALKEEPERS

1	Russell HOULT	22.11.72
29	Tomasz KUSZCZAK (Pol)	20.03.82
30	Simon MIOTTO (Aus)	05.09.69
28	Joe MURPHY (Ire)	21.08.81

DEFENDERS

14	Martin ALBRECHTSEN (Den)	31.03.80
26	Sekou BERTHE (Mli)	07.10.77
32	Adam CHAMBERS	20.11.80
16	Cosmin CONTRA (Rom)	15.12.75
22	Bernt HAAS (Swi)	08.04.78
31	Phillip MIDWORTH	17.05.85
5	Darren MOORE (Jam)	22.04.74
6	Darren PURSE	14.02.76
3	Paul ROBINSON	14.12.78
2	Riccardo SCIMECA	13.06.75
21	Larus SIGURDSSON (Ice)	04.06.73
24	Ronnie WALLWORK	10.09.77

MIDFIELDERS

19	Neil CLEMENT	03.10.78
18	Lloyd DYER	13.09.82
4	Thomas GAARDSOE (Den)	23.11.79
11	Zoltan GERA (Hun)	22.04.79
8	Jonathan GREENING	02.01.79
33	Junichi INAMOTO (Jap)	18.09.79
10	Andy JOHNSON (Wal)	02.05.74
7	Jason KOUMAS (Wal)	25.09.79
23	James O'CONNOR (Ire)	10.09.79
20	Artim SAKIRI (Mac)	23.09.73

FORWARDS

12	Scott DOBIE (Sco)	10.10.78
34	Robert EARNSHAW (Wal)	06.04.81
9	Geoff HORSFIELD	01.11.73
17	Rob HULSE	25.10.79
25	Nwankwo KANU (Nig)	01.08.76

MANAGER

Gary MEGSON	02.05.59

EURO SQUADS – FRANCE

AJACCIO

GOALKEEPERS

13	Florian LUCCHINI	13.02.81
	Alexandre NEGRI (Bra)	27.03.81
	Stephane PORATO	19.09.73
16	Stephane TREVISAN	01.05.73

DEFENDERS

25	Xavier COLLIN	17.08.74
24	Christophe DESTRUHAUT	24.01.73
	Nenad DZODIC (Ser)	04.01.77
3	Jose GASPAR (Por)	01.06.75
15	Fabien LAURENTI	06.01.83
4	David TERRIER	04.08.73
19	Abderaouf ZARABI (Alg)	26.03.79

MIDFIELDERS

	Djamel ABDOUN	14.02.86
28	ANDRE LUIZ (Bra)	11.07.74
27	Yacine BEZZAZ (Alg)	10.08.81
21	Renaud CONNEN	21.03.80
26	Yohan DEMONT	15.05.78
	Anzite FRANKLIN	02.11.85
7	MARCELINHO (Bra)	01.02.71
8	Abdelnassar OUADAH (Alg)	13.09.75
5	Martial ROBIN	27.08.77
6	RODRIGO (Bra)	06.10.80
12	Mamadou SECK (Sen)	23.08.79
	Gregory URSULE	14.01.77

FORWARDS

11	Cyril CHAPUIS	21.03.79
10	EDSON (Bra)	08.02.79
9	LUCAS PEREIRA (Bra)	02.05.82
	Mickael MARQUET	10.12.81

COACH

Dominique BIJOTAT	03.01.61

AUXERRE

GOALKEEPERS

30	Baptiste CHABERT	07.04.83
1	Fabien COOL	29.08.72
16	Sebastien HAMEL	20.11.75

DEFENDERS

23	Rene BOLF (Cze)	25.02.74
28	Michael CIANI	06.04.84
27	Mamoutou COULIBALY (Mli)	23.02.84
4	Stephane GRICHTING (Swi)	30.03.79
3	Jean-Sebastien JAURES	30.09.77
26	Younes KABOUL	04.01.86
12	Jean-Pascal MIGNOT	26.02.81
2	Johan RADET	24.11.76
25	David RECOURBET	24.10.76
29	Bacary SAGNA	14.02.83
22	Richard SURIANO	28.01.82
19	Pierre VIGNAUD	10.03.83

MIDFIELDERS

7	Benoit CHEYROU	03.05.81
15	Bonaventure KALOU (IvC)	12.01.78
8	Yann LACHUER	05.08.72
18	Lionel MATHIS	04.10.81
10	Teemu TAINIO (Fin)	27.11.79
6	Philippe VIOLEAU	19.08.70
17	Hassan YEBDA	14.05.84

FORWARDS

11	Kanga Gauthier AKALE (IvC)	07.03.81
24	Vassiriki DIABY	11.05.86
20	Arnaud GONZALEZ	24.08.77
21	Benjani MWARUWARI (Zim)	13.08.78
9	Luigi PIERONI (Blg)	08.09.80
14	David VANDENBOSSCHE	27.09.80

COACH

Guy ROUX	18.10.38

BASTIA

GOALKEEPERS

30	Jean-Louis LECA	21.09.85
1	Nicolas PENNETEAU	28.02.81
16	Daniel YEBOAH (IvC)	13.11.84

DEFENDERS

13	Pascal CHIMBONDA	21.02.79
7	Bjorn Tore KVARME (Nor)	17.06.72
28	Benjamin LONGUE	03.12.80
17	Franck MATINGOU (DRC)	04.12.79
23	David SAUGET	23.11.79
4	Cedric URAS	29.11.77
3	Greg VANNEY (USA)	11.06.74
21	Anthar YAHIA (Alg)	21.03.82

MIDFIELDERS

27	Paul-Herve ESSOLA (Cam)	13.12.81
24	Florent GHISOLFI	28.02.85
11	Youssouf HADJI (Mor)	25.02.80
26	Fabrice JAU	04.09.78
8	Sebastien PIOCELLE	10.11.78
6	Roman ROCCHI	02.10.81
18	Djibril SIDIBE (Mli)	23.03.83
2	Alexandre SONG BILONG (Cam)	09.04.87

FORWARDS

20	Pierre-Yves ANDRE	14.05.74
29	Chaouki BEN SAADA (Tun)	01.07.84
22	Samir BERTIN D'AVESNES	15.04.86
9	Frederic NEE	18.04.75
10	Tony VAIRELLES	10.04.73

COACH

Francois CICCOLINI	03.06.62

BORDEAUX

GOALKEEPERS

16	Ulrich RAME	19.09.72
1	Frederic ROUX	27.06.73
30	Mathieu VALVERDE	14.05.83

DEFENDERS

21	Kodjo Julien AFANOU	21.11.77
	Abdoulaye BARRY	27.11.84
25	Gerald CID	17.02.83
18	Julien FAUBERT	01.08.83
2	David JEMMALI	13.12.74
6	Franck JURIETTI	30.03.75
4	Michalis KAPSIS (Gre)	18.10.73
27	Marc PLANUS	07.03.82

MIDFIELDERS

26	Renaud COHADE	29.09.84
33	Pablo FRANCIA (Arg/Ita)	03.12.84
24	Rio MAVUBA	08.03.84
10	Camel MERIEM	18.10.79
	Erwan QUINTIN	01.02.84
11	Albert RIERA Ortega (Spa)	15.04.82
8	Cyril ROOL	15.04.75
33	THIAGO (Por)	
12	Kalu UCHE (Nig)	15.11.82

FORWARDS

17	Herve BUGNET	24.08.81
29	Marouane CHAMAKH (Mor)	10.01.84
9	Jean-Claude DARCHEVILLE	25.07.75
31	Sylvain FRANCO	21.02.83
28	Alexei KOSSONOGOV (Rus)	30.03.82
7	Lilian LASLANDES	04.09.71

COACH

Michel PAVON	01.11.68

CAEN

GOALKEEPERS

25	Benoit COSTIL	03.07.87
1	Steeve ELANA	11.07.80
16	Vincent PLANTE	19.11.80

DEFENDERS

5	Ariz BEN ASKAR	30.03.76
23	Alexandre CLEMENT	23.03.75
13	Frederic DANJOU	28.09.74
21	Ibrahima FAYE (Sen)	22.10.79
22	Cedric HENGBART	13.07.80
2	Nicolas SEUBE	11.08.79
3	Gael SUARES	09.04.81
6	Ronald ZUBAR	20.09.85

MIDFIELDERS

8	Salah BAKOUR (Alg)	15.04.82
7	Anthony DEROIN	15.03.79
19	Gregory DUFER (Blg)	19.12.81
4	Steve DUGARDEIN (Blg)	28.01.74
15	Jimmy HEBERT	01.07.72
32	Mathias JOUAN	04.02.84
20	Reynald LEMAITRE	28.06.83
29	Benoit LESOIMIER	21.02.83
18	Samy MAWENE	12.11.84
27	Ljubisa RANKOVIC (Ser)	10.12.73

FORWARDS

31	Franck BERRIER	02.02.84
14	Yohan EUDELINE	23.06.82
33	Yoan GOUFFRAN	25.05.86
11	Zoran JOVICIC (Ser)	17.01.73
9	Sebastien MAZURE	20.03.79
10	Kordaba Arfang SARR (Sen)	13.12.75
17	Cyrille WATIER	25.06.72

COACH

Patrick REMY	25.08.54

ISTRES

GOALKEEPERS

18	Rudy RIOU	22.01.80
1	Laurent WEBER	01.09.72

DEFENDERS

15	Abdoulaye DIAGNE-FAYE (Sen)	26.02.78
3	Christophe DUMOLIN	04.01.73
23	David HAMED	02.01.74
21	Amor KEHIHA	05.09.77
24	Patrick LEUGUEUN (Cam)	25.02.81
27	Steven Robert PELE	28.08.81
8	Nisa SAVELJIC (Ser)	27.03.70
5	Bruno SAVRY	11.03.74
4	Brahim THIAM (Mli)	24.02.74
14	Romain TROUCHE	23.11.85

MIDFIELDERS

20	Franck CHAUSSIDIERE	01.08.78
29	Laurent COURTOIS	11.09.78
6	Gerald FORSCHELET	19.09.81
15	Dejan ILIC (Ser)	24.03.76
7	Laurent MOHELLEBI	05.01.84
22	Moussa N'DIAYE (Sen)	20.02.79
17	Azzedine OURAHOU	12.08.84

FORWARDS

13	Christophe CALDEIRINHA	30.03.84
16	Florian MAURICE	20.01.74
11	Victor MONTANO (Col)	01.05.84
19	Steeve THEOPHILE	09.09.80

COACH

Mehmet BAZDAREVIC (Bos)	28.09.60

LENS

GOALKEEPERS

1	Sebastien CHABBERT	15.05.78
30	Charles ITANDJE	02.11.82
16	Niki MAENPAA (Fin)	23.01.85

DEFENDERS

32	Benoit ASOU-EKOTTO (Cam)	24.03.84
6	Jacek BAK (Pol)	24.03.73
28	Stephane BESLE	19.01.85
4	Adama COULIBALY (Mli)	09.10.80
14	Eric CUBILIER	09.08.79
5	Nicolas GILLET	08.11.76
3	HILTON (Bra)	13.09.77
27	Daouda JABI (Gui)	10.04.81
15	Yoann LACHOR	17.01.76

MIDFIELDERS

34	Patrick BARUL	02.10.77
10	Eric CARRIERE	24.05.73
31	Charles-Edouard CORIDON	09.04.73
13	Mounir DIANE (Mor)	16.05.82
23	Alou DIARRA	15.07.81
	Yazid KAISSI (Mor)	16.05.81
8	Seydou KEITA (Mli)	16.01.80
7	Jerome LEROY	04.11.74
26	Lesley MALOUDA	16.11.83
25	Guillaume PLESSIS	03.01.85
11	Pape SARR (Sen)	07.12.77

FORWARDS

20	Dagui BAKARI (IvC)	06.09.74
	Bouabid BOUDEN (Mor)	01.02.82
19	Mator COLY (Sen)	10.11.84
9	Daniel COUSIN (Gab)	07.02.77
29	Seid KHITER	19.01.85
18	Olivier THOMERT	28.05.80
21	John UTAKA (Nig)	08.01.82

COACH

Joel MULLER	02.01.52

LILLE

GOALKEEPERS

16	Gregory MALICKI	23.11.73
30	Laurent PICHON	08.03.81
1	Tony SYLVA (Sen)	17.05.75

DEFENDERS

26	Benoit ANGBWA (Cam)	01.01.82
21	Matthieu CHALME	07.10.80
6	DANTE (Bra)	18.10.83
19	Peter FRANQUART	04.01.81
25	Nicolas PLESTAN	02.06.81
5	Rafael SCHMITZ (Bra)	17.12.80
20	Gregory TAFFOREAU	29.09.76
4	Efstathios TAVLARIDIS (Gre)	28.01.80
22	Milivoje VITAKIC (Ser)	16.05.77

MIDFIELDERS

12	Mathieu BODMER	22.11.82
18	Nicolas BONNAL	16.10.76
10	Philippe BRUNEL	28.02.73
2	Mathieu DEBUCHY	28.07.85
8	Geoffrey DERNIS	24.12.80
29	Stephane DUMONT	06.09.82
24	Christophe LANDRIN	30.06.77
17	Jean MAKOUN (Cam)	29.05.83

FORWARDS

15	Milenko ACIMOVIC (Sln)	15.02.77
23	Johan AUDEL	12.12.83
13	Nicolas FAVERGUE	13.10.84
9	Matt MOUSSILOU	01.06.82
14	Peter ODEMWINGIE (Nig)	15.07.81
11	Nicolas RAYNIER	04.03.84

COACH

Claude PUEL	02.09.61

LYON

GOALKEEPERS

1	Gregory COUPET	31.12.72
25	Johan HARTOCK	12.02.87
30	Nicolas PUYDEBOIS	28.02.81

DEFENDERS

20	Eric ABIDAL	11.07.79
23	Jeremie BERTHOD	24.04.84
5	Claudio CACAPA (Bra)	29.05.76
3	CRIS (Bra)	06.03.77
15	Lamine DIATTA (Sen)	02.07.75
29	Yohan GOMEZ	25.09.81
12	Anthony REVEILLERE	10.11.79
27	Johann TRUCHET	16.08.83

MIDFIELDERS

34	Hatem BEN ARFA	07.03.87
26	Jeremy CLEMENT	26.09.84
7	Mahamadou DIARRA (Mli)	18.05.81
4	Michael ESSIEN (Gha)	03.12.82
31	Yacine HIMA	25.03.84
32	Sylvain IDANGAR	08.03.84
8	JUNINHO Pernambucano (Bra)	30.01.75
10	Florent MALOUDA	13.06.80

FORWARDS

21	Bryan BERGOUGNOUX	12.01.83
9	Giovane ELBER (Bra)	23.07.72
13	Pierre-Alain FRAU	15.04.80
14	Sidney GOVOU	27.07.79
11	NILMAR (Bra)	17.07.84
27	Julien VIALE	13.02.82
22	Sylvain WILTORD	10.05.74

COACH

Paul LE GUEN	01.03.64

MARSEILLE

GOALKEEPERS

16	Fabien BARTHEZ	28.06.71
30	Jeremy GAVANON	20.09.83

DEFENDERS

23	Habib BEYE (Sen)	19.01.77
	Philippe CHRISTANVAL	31.08.78
5	Frederic DEHU	24.10.72
21	Johnny ECKER	16.01.73
4	Demetrius FERREIRA (Bra)	12.01.74
2	LEO (Bra)	02.04.86
3	Bixente LIZARAZU	09.12.69
12	Abdoulaye MEITE (IvC)	06.10.80
28	Leyti N'DIAYE (Sen)	19.08.85
19	Remy ROBAULT	06.01.85

MIDFIELDERS

20	Laurent BATLLES	23.09.75
	Fabien CAMUS	28.02.85
8	Bruno CHEYROU	10.05.78
38	Jose DELFIM (Por)	05.07.77
18	EDUARDO COSTA (Bra)	23.09.82
11	Fabrice FIORESE	26.07.75
6	Brahim HEMDANI	15.03.78
22	Samir NASRI	20.06.87
25	Sylvain N'DIAYE (Sen)	25.06.76
15	Salomon OLEMBE (Cam)	08.12.80
17	Benoit PEDRETTI	12.11.80
13	Ahmed YAKIAOUI	12.01.87

FORWARDS

26	Habib BAMOGO	08.05.82
36	Rachmane BARRY (Sen)	30.08.86
10	KOKE (Spa)	27.04.83
14	Peguy LUYINDULA	25.05.79
7	Steve MARLET	10.01.74
	Lamine SAKHO (Sen)	28.09.77

COACH

Jose ANIGO	15.04.61

METZ

GOALKEEPERS

16	Kossi AGASSA (Tog)	02.07.78
30	Guillaume CHERREAU	20.06.83
1	Gregory WIMBEE	19.08.71

DEFENDERS

8	Samuel ALLEGRO	14.03.78
2	Frank BERIA	23.05.83
5	Stephane BORBICONI	22.03.79
29	Jean-Philippe CAILLET	24.06.77
15	Moktar MANGANE (Sen)	15.11.82
4	Mehdi MENIRI (Alg)	29.06.77
6	Bruno POMPIERE	10.06.80
3	Franck SIGNORINO	19.09.81

MIDFIELDERS

11	Christophe AVEZAC	12.03.77
27	Mathieu DINET	01.08.85
23	Dino DJIBA (Sen)	20.05.84
20	Julien GORIUS	17.03.85
22	Gregory LECA	22.08.80
28	Benjamin NICAISE	29.09.80
13	Ludovic OBRANIAK	10.11.84
12	Gregory PROMENT	10.12.78
26	Sebastien RENOUARD	11.07.84
10	Franck RIBERY	07.04.83
24	Venn Kassi TOURE (IvC)	06.04.84

FORWARDS

21	Babacar GUEYE (Sen)	02.03.86
25	Momar N'DIAYE (Sen)	13.07.87
17	Nicolas N'DIONE (Sen)	03.04.82
14	Richard SOCRIER	23.03.79
9	Herve TUM (Cam)	15.02.79

COACH

Jean FERNANDEZ	08.10.54

MONACO

GOALKEEPERS

1	Fabien AUDARD	28.03.78
16	Andre BIANCARELLI	11.03.70
30	Flavio ROMA (Ita)	21.06.74

DEFENDERS

3	Patrice EVRA	15.05.81
32	Gael GIVET	09.10.81
20	Arnaud LESCURE	13.02.86
13	MAICON (Bra)	06.07.81
4	Francois MODESTO	19.08.78
12	Joseph OSHADOGAN (Ita)	27.06.76
27	Julien RODRIGUEZ	11.06.78
19	Sebastien SQUILLACI	11.08.80

MIDFIELDERS

7	Lucas BERNARDI (Arg)	27.09.77
35	Hassan EL-FAKIRI (Nor)	18.04.77
21	Pontus FARNERUD (Swe)	04.06.80
17	Jimmy JUAN	10.06.83
14	Gregory LACOMBE	11.01.82
5	Diego Fernando PEREZ (Uru)	18.05.80
6	Jaroslav PLASIL (Cze)	05.01.82
15	Akis ZIKOS (Gre)	01.06.74

FORWARDS

24	Emmanuel ADEBAYOR (Tog)	26.02.84
25	Souleymane CAMARA (Sen)	22.12.82
10	Ernesto Javier CHEVANTON (Uru)	12.08.80
8	Mohammed KALLON (SLe)	06.10.79
18	Shabani NONDA (DRC)	06.03.77
9	Javier SAVIOLA (Arg)	11.12.81

COACH

Didier DESCHAMPS	15.10.68

NANTES

GOALKEEPERS

16	Willy GRONDIN	12.10.74
1	Mickael LANDREAU	14.05.79
30	Perica RADIC (Ser)	13.03.84

DEFENDERS

5	Julio CACERES (Par)	05.10.79
4	Mauro CETTO (Arg)	14.04.82
12	Pascal DELHOMMEAU	14.08.78
25	Stephen DROUIN	27.01.84
24	Loic GUILLON	11.01.82
35	David LERAY	02.03.84
31	Denis STINAT	18.07.83
2	Alexander VIVEROS (Col)	08.10.77

MIDFIELDERS

20	Boubacar BALDE (GuB)	06.01.86
11	Aurelien CAPOUE	28.02.82
8	Frederic DA ROCHA	16.09.74
35	Emerse FAE	24.01.84
23	Fodil HADJADJ (Alg)	18.04.83
22	Vincent LABAN	09.09.84
27	Loic PAILLERES	20.05.80
14	Olivier QUINT	29.11.71
26	Goran RUBIL (Cro)	09.03.81
17	Jeremy TOULALAN	10.09.83
15	Nicolas SAVINAUD	20.11.75
10	Gilles YAPI YAPO (IvC)	30.01.82

FORWARDS

18	Hassan AHAMADA	13.04.81
19	Mamadou BAGAYOKO (Mli)	21.05.73
9	Florin BRATU (Rom)	02.01.80
21	Luigi GLOMBARD	21.08.84
3	Shiva N'ZIGOU (Gab)	24.10.83
7	Gregory PUJOL	25.01.80

COACH

Loic AMISSE	09.08.54

NICE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Damien GREGORINI	02.03.79
36	Hugo LLORIS	26.12.86
16	Bruno VALENCONY	16.06.68

DEFENDERS

13	Jacques ABARDONADO	27.05.78
3	Jose COBOS	23.04.68
5	Francois GRENET	08.03.75
15	Florian JARJAT	18.02.80
21	Anthony SCARAMOZZINO	30.04.85
17	Sammy TRAORE (Mli)	25.02.76
2	Cedric VARRAULT	30.01.80

MIDFIELDERS

14	Florent BALMONT	02.02.80
27	Yoann BIGNE	23.08.77
7	Roberto BISCONTI (Blg)	21.07.73
10	Serge DIE (IvC)	04.10.77
20	Pablo Franco DOLCI (Arg)	01.01.84
6	Olivier ECHOUAFNI	13.09.72
4	Jean-Paul KAMUDIMBA (DRC)	16.02.82
18	Sebastien ROUDET	16.06.81
23	Thibault SCOTTO	17.09.78

FORWARDS

24	Victor AGALI (Nig)	29.12.78
28	Serge AYELI (IvC)	23.08.81
12	Bakary DIAKITE (Mli)	09.11.80
11	Edgaras JANKAUSKAS (Lit)	12.03.75
22	Kamal LARBI (Alg)	20.02.85
9	Roland LINZ (Aut)	09.08.81
25	Christophe MESLIN	13.07.77
26	Franck PADOVANI	22.04.85
19	Marama VAHIRUA	12.05.80

COACH

Gernot ROHR (Ger)	28.06.53

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

GOALKEEPERS

16	Jerome ALONZO	20.11.72
30	Mohamed BENHAMOU	17.12.79
1	Lionel LETIZI	28.05.73

DEFENDERS

22	Sylvain ARMAND	01.08.80
17	Jean-Hughes ATEBA (Cam)	01.09.81
26	Jean-Michel BADIANE	09.05.83
20	HELDER (Por)	21.03.71
5	Bernard MENDY	20.08.81
2	Stephane PICHOT	02.09.76
24	Jose PIERRE-FANFAN	26.07.75
6	Mario Alberto YEPES (Col)	13.01.76

MIDFIELDERS

18	Slim BENACHOUR (Tun)	08.09.81
10	Branko BOSKOVIC (Ser)	21.01.80
19	Lorik CANA (Alb)	27.07.83
14	Edouard CISSE	30.03.78
27	Charles-Edouard CORIDON	09.04.73
23	Modeste MBAMI (Cam)	09.10.82
25	Jerome ROTHEN	31.03.78

FORWARDS

15	Vedad IBISEVIC (Bos)	06.08.84
28	Danijel LJUBOJA (Ser)	04.09.78
26	Bartholemew OGBECHE (Nig)	01.10.84
7	Fabrice PANCRATE	02.05.80
9	PAULETA (Por)	28.04.73
8	REINALDO (Bra)	14.03.79

COACH

Vahid HALILHODZIC (Bos)	15.10.52

RENNES

GOALKEEPERS

16	Florent CHAIGNEAU	21.03.84
1	Andreas ISAKSSON (Swe)	03.10.81

DEFENDERS

4	ADAILTON (Bra)	16.04.84
6	Gregory BOURILLON	01.07.84
5	Jacques FATY	25.02.84
17	Francois GRENET	08.03.75
15	Arnaud LE LAN	22.03.78
3	Abdelsalem OUADDOU (Mor)	01.11.78
2	Jean-Joel PERRIER-DOUMBE (Cam)	27.09.78
26	Gregory TANAGRO	17.06.84

MIDFIELDERS

14	Cedric BARBOSA	06.03.76
20	Jonathan BRU	02.05.85
22	Etienne DIDOT	24.07.83
	DUDU CEARENSE (Bra)	15.04.83
25	Yoann GOURCUFF	11.07.86
27	Cyril JEUNECHAMP	18.12.75
8	Kim KALLSTROM (Swe)	24.08.82
28	Arnold MVUEMBA	28.01.85
24	Stephane N'GUEMA (Gab)	20.11.84
7	Olivier SORLIN	09.04.79

FORWARDS

19	Jimmy BRIAND	02.05.85
23	Alexander FREI (Swi)	15.07.79
18	Olivier MONTERRUBIO	08.08.76
11	Ivica MORNAR (Cro)	12.01.74

COACH

Laszlo BOLONI (Rom)	11.03.56

SAINT-ETIENNE

GOALKEEPERS

30	Florent GUILLAUD	04.03.84
16	Jeremie JANOT	11.10.77
1	Ronan LE CROM	13.07.74

DEFENDERS

6	Zoumana CAMARA	03.04.79
3	Patrice CARTERON	30.07.70
22	Fousseni DIAWARA (Mli)	28.08.80
12	Javier GARRIDO (Spa)	01.07.79
26	Stephane HERNANDEZ	24.08.79
4	Vincent HOGNON	16.08.74
23	Herita ILUNGA (DRC)	25.02.82
17	Abdelaziz KAMARA	10.04.84

MIDFIELDERS

8	David HELLEBUYCK	12.05.79
24	Loic PERRIN	07.08.85
27	Julien SABLE	11.09.80
5	Didier ZOKORA (IvC)	14.12.80

FORWARDS

20	Mickael CITONY	21.08.80
25	Lilian COMPAN	30.04.77
21	Mickael Dodzi DOGBE (Tog)	28.11.76
14	Pascal FEINDOUNO (Gui)	27.02.81
18	Bafetibis GOMIS	06.08.85
7	Anthony LE TALLEC	03.10.84
10	Nicolas MARIN	29.08.80
11	Frederic MENDY	06.11.81
9	Frederic PIQUIONNE	08.12.78

COACH

Elie BAUP	17.03.55

SOCHAUX

GOALKEEPERS

1	Gerard GNANHOUAN (IvC)	12.02.79
30	Alexandre MARTINOVIC	31.05.85
16	Teddy RICHERT	21.09.74

DEFENDERS

27	Omar DAF (Sen)	12.02.77
21	Souleymane DIAWARA (Sen)	24.12.78
24	Aime LAVIE	07.12.84
5	Sylvain MONSOREAU	20.03.81
3	Gregory PAISLEY	07.05.77
6	Lionel POTILLON	10.02.74
2	Ibrahim TALL (Sen)	23.06.81

MIDFIELDERS

8	Fabien BOUDARENE	05.10.78
12	Mickael ISABEY	20.02.75
14	Johann LONFAT (Swi)	11.09.73
25	Jeremy MATHIEU	29.10.83
18	Guirane N'DAW (Sen)	24.04.84
10	Wilson ORUMA (Nig)	30.12.76
28	Marcelo TRAPASSO (Arg)	30.04.76

FORWARDS

19	Basile DE CARVALHO (Sen)	31.10.81
20	Sigamary DIARRA (Mli)	10.01.84
9	ILAN (Bra)	18.09.80
26	Jeremy MENEZ	07.05.87
11	Francileudo Dos SANTOS (Tun)	20.03.79
29	Jaouad ZAIRI (Mor)	17.04.82

COACH

Guy LACOMBE	12.06.55

STRASBOURG

GOALKEEPERS

30	Nicolas BONIS	30.08.81
16	Stephane CASSARD	11.11.72
1	Richard DUTRUEL	24.12.72
22	Remi VERCOUTRE	26.06.80

DEFENDERS

20	Yacine ABDESSADKI	01.01.81
15	Arthur BOKA (IvC)	02.04.83
2	Yves DEROFF	29.08.78
3	Jean-Christophe DEVAUX	16.05.75
23	Abdelilah FAHMI (Mor)	03.08.73
21	Karim HAGUI (Tun)	20.01.84
5	Cedric KANTE (Mli)	06.07.79
27	Jacques MOHMA (Cam)	07.08.82

MIDFIELDERS

4	Christian BASSILA	05.10.77
8	Pascal CAMADINI	02.04.72
7	Alexander FARNERUD (Swe)	10.05.84
18	Pascal JOHANSEN	28.04.79
24	Sidi Yaya KEITA (Mli)	20.03.85
19	Guillaume LACOUR	02.08.80
14	Ulrich LE PEN	23.01.74

FORWARDS

13	Salim ARRACHE (Alg)	14.07.82
17	Eric MOULOUNGUI (Gab)	01.04.84
11	Mamadou NIANG (Sen)	13.10.79
9	Mickael PAGIS	17.08.73

COACH

Antoine KOMBOUARE	16.11.63

TOULOUSE

GOALKEEPERS

30	Benoit BENVEGNU	15.05.85
16	Nicolas DOUCHEZ	22.04.80
1	Christophe REVAULT	22.03.72

DEFENDERS

4	Dominique ARRIBAGE	11.05.71
12	Lucien AUBEY (Con)	24.05.84
5	Ludovic CLEMENT	05.12.76
24	Francois CLERC	18.04.83
3	Daniel CONGRE	05.04.85
9	Issoumaila DAO (IvC)	27.10.83
28	Albin EBONDO	23.02.84
7	Stephane LIEVRE	03.10.72
2	Predrag OCOKOLJIC (Ser)	29.07.77

MIDFIELDERS

19	Henri BEDIMO Nsame (Cam)	04.06.84
17	Anthony BRAIZAT	16.08.77
6	Julien CARDY	29.09.81
18	Stephane DALMAT	16.02.79
20	Achille EMANA (Cam)	05.06.82
8	Thibault GIRESSE	25.05.81
14	Francois SIRIEIX	07.10.80
15	Julien SOLA	13.06.84
19	Nabil TAIDER	25.05.83

FORWARDS

23	Eduardo DA SILVA (Bra)	13.10.79
10	Daniel MOREIRA	08.08.77
22	Benjamin PSAUME	12.01.85
11	David SUAREZ	09.06.79

COACH

Erick MOMBAERTS	21.04.55

ARMINIA BIELEFELD

GOALKEEPERS

23	Dennis EILHOFF	31.07.82
1	Mathias HAIN	31.12.72
16	Ronny KOCKEL	16.12.75

DEFENDERS

15	Daniel BOGUSZ (Pol)	21.09.74
3	Marcio BORGES (Bra)	20.01.73
13	Michael FINK	01.02.82
4	Petr GABRIEL (Cze)	17.05.73
16	Benjamin LENSE	30.11.78
2	Markus SCHULER	01.08.77

MIDFIELDERS

6	Detlev DAMMEIER	18.10.68
19	Klodian DURO (Alb)	21.12.77
25	Philipp HEITHOLTER	28.08.82
5	Rudiger KAUF	01.03.75
22	Patrick OWOMOYELA	05.11.79
21	Massimilian PORCELLO	23.06.80
17	Bernd Gerd RAUW (Blg)	08.01.80
11	Ervin SKELA (Alb)	17.11.76
8	Vanco TRAJANOV (Mac)	09.08.78
10	Fatmir VATA (Alb)	20.09.71
27	Christian WIECZOREK	09.12.85

FORWARDS

18	Isaac BOAKYE (Gha)	26.11.81
7	Delron BUCKLEY (SAf)	07.12.77
14	Marco KUNTZEL	22.01.76
20	Marijo MARIC (Cro)	12.01.77
30	Zeljko RADOVIC (Aut)	06.04.74
9	Claudiu RADUCANU (Rom)	03.12.76

COACH

Uwe RAPOLDER	29.05.58

BAYER LEVERKUSEN

GOALKEEPERS

22	Rene ADLER	15.01.85
1	Hans-Jorg BUTT	28.05.74
20	Tom STARKE	18.03.81

DEFENDERS

29	Jan-Ingwer CALLSEN-BRACKER	23.09.84
4	JUAN (Bra)	01.02.79
21	Radoslaw KALUZNY (Pol)	02.02.74
6	Teddy LUCIC (Swe)	15.04.73
5	Jens NOWOTNY	11.01.74
35	Diego PLACENTE (Arg)	24.04.77
3	ROQUE JUNIOR (Bra)	31.08.76

MIDFIELDERS

19	Marko BABIC (Cro)	21.01.81
14	Hanno BALITSCH	02.01.81
13	Daniel BIEROFKA	07.02.79
10	Paul FREIER	26.07.79
17	Clemens FRITZ	07.12.80
16	Jacek KRZYNOWEK (Pol)	15.05.76
15	Sezer OZTURK (Tur)	03.11.85
28	Carsten RAMELOW	20.03.74
25	Bernd SCHNEIDER	17.11.73

FORWARDS

9	Dimitar BERBATOV (Bul)	30.01.81
11	FRANCA (Bra)	02.03.76
8	Jermaine JONES	03.11.81
7	Robson PONTE (Bra/Ita)	06.11.76
18	Kenan SAHIN	27.10.84
12	Andrii VORONIN (Ukr)	21.07.79

COACH

Klaus AUGENTHALER	26.09.57

BAYERN MUNICH

GOALKEEPERS

1	Oliver KAHN	15.06.69
22	Michael RENSING	14.05.84

DEFENDERS

6	Martin DEMICHELIS (Arg)	20.12.80
5	Robert KOVAC (Cro)	06.04.74
4	Samuel Osei KUFFOUR (Gha)	03.09.76
25	Thomas LINKE	26.12.69
3	LUCIO (Bra)	08.05.78
15	Tobias RAU	31.12.81
2	Willy SAGNOL (Fra)	18.03.77

MIDFIELDERS

13	Michael BALLACK	26.09.76
26	Sebastian DEISLER	05.01.80
8	Torsten FRINGS	22.11.76
18	Andreas GORLITZ	31.01.82
23	Owen HARGREAVES (Eng)	20.01.81
16	Jens JEREMIES	05.03.74
20	Hasan SALIHAMIDZIC (Bos)	01.01.77
7	Mehmet SCHOLL	16.10.70
31	Bastian SCHWEINSTEIGER	01.08.84
34	Piotr TROCHOWSKI	22.03.84
11	ZE ROBERTO (Bra)	06.07.74

FORWARDS

33	Jose Paolo GUERRERO (Per)	01.01.84
9	Vahid HASHEMIAN (Irn)	21.07.76
10	Roy MAKAAY (Hol)	09.03.75
14	Claudio PIZARRO (Per)	03.10.78
24	Roque SANTA CRUZ (Par)	16.08.81
21	Alexander ZICKLER	28.02.74

COACH

Felix MAGATH	26.07.53

BOCHUM

GOALKEEPERS

1	Rein VAN DUUNHOVEN (Hol)	05.09.67
13	Christian VANDER	24.10.80

DEFENDERS

2	Michael BEMBEN	28.01.76
24	Philipp BONIG	20.03.80
5	Soren COLDING (Den)	02.09.72
22	EDU (Bra)	30.11.81
6	Raymond KALLA (Cam)	22.04.75
15	Aleksander KNAVS (Sln)	05.12.75
25	Marvin MATIP	25.09.85
3	Martin MEICHELBECK	21.11.76

MIDFIELDERS

14	Thordur GUDJONSSON (Ice)	14.10.73
4	Marcel MALTRITZ	02.10.78
17	Christoph PREUSS	04.07.81
20	Miroslav STEVIC (Ser)	07.01.70
18	Filip TAPALOVIC (Cro)	22.10.76
23	Ersan TEKKAN (Tur)	06.01.85
10	Dariusz WOSZ	08.06.69
8	Tomasz ZDEBEL (Pol)	25.05.73

FORWARDS

7	Tommy BECHMANN (Den)	22.12.81
19	Mamadou DIABANG (Sen)	21.01.79
11	Vratislav LOKVENC (Cze)	27.09.73
9	Peter MADSEN (Den)	26.04.78
16	Zvjezdan MISIMOVIC (Bos)	05.06.82
21	Filip TROJAN (Cze)	21.02.83

COACH

Peter NEURURER	26.04.55

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

GOALKEEPERS

26	Guillaume WARMUZ (Fra)	22.05.70
1	Roman WEIDENFELLER	06.08.80

DEFENDERS

35	Markus BRZENSKA	25.05.84
28	Andre BERGDOLMO (Nor)	13.10.71
2	EVANILSON (Bra)	12.09.75
15	Niclas JENSEN (Den)	17.08.74
23	Ahmed Reda MADOUNI (Fra)	04.10.80
21	Christoph METZELDER	05.11.80
20	Malte METZELDER	19.05.82
29	Sascha RAMMEL	11.03.85
4	Christian WORNS	10.05.72

MIDFIELDERS

11	Otto ADDO (Gha)	09.06.75
17	DEDE (Bra)	18.04.78
14	Guy DEMEL (Fra)	13.06.81
33	Salvatore GAMBINO	27.11.83
5	Sebastian KEHL	13.02.80
6	Florian KRINGE	18.08.82
16	Sunday OLISEH (Nig)	14.09.74
18	Lars RICKEN	10.07.76
10	Tomas ROSICKY (Cze)	04.10.80

FORWARDS

19	Mehmet AKGUN	06.08.86
30	ANDERSON (Bra)	13.07.84
12	EWERTHON (Bra)	10.06.81
9	Jan KOLLER (Cze)	30.03.73
24	David ODONKOR	21.02.84
25	Sahr SENESIE	20.06.85

COACH

Bert VAN MARWIJK (Hol)	19.05.52

BORUSSIA MONCHENGLADBACH

GOALKEEPERS

1	Darius KAMPA	16.01.77
31	Michael MELKA	09.07.78
30	Sead RAMOVIC	14.03.79

DEFENDERS

3	Bradley CARNELL (SAf)	21.01.77
2	Max EBERL	21.09.73
14	Milan FUKAL (Cze)	16.05.75
4	Steffen KORELL	27.10.71
19	Bernd KORZYNIETZ	08.09.79
15	Marcelo Jose PLETSCH (Bra)	13.05.76
7	Jeff STRASSER (Lux)	05.10.74
5	Nico VAN KERCKHOVEN (Blg)	14.12.70
23	Christian ZIEGE	01.02.72

MIDFIELDERS

29	Thomas BROICH	29.01.81
6	Igor DEMO (Slk)	18.09.75
36	Enrico GAEDE	31.01.82
21	Markus HAUSWEILER	15.04.76
18	Vladimir IVIC (Ser)	07.05.77
22	Oliver KIRCH	21.08.82
24	Peer KLUGE	22.11.80
16	Jan SCHLAUDRAFF	18.07.83
8	Ivo ULICH (Cze)	05.09.74

FORWARDS

28	Marek HEINZ (Cze)	04.08.77
27	Oliver NEUVILLE	01.05.73
25	Vaclav SVERKOS (Cze)	01.11.83
13	Joris VAN HOUT (Blg)	10.01.77

COACH

Holger FACH	06.09.62

FREIBURG

GOALKEEPERS

1	Richard GOLZ	05.06.68
36	Julian REINARD	05.03.83
24	Timo REUS	02.05.74

DEFENDERS

17	Boubacar DIARRA (Mli)	15.07.79
16	Lars HERMEL	28.09.70
5	Oumar KONDE (Swi)	19.08.79
3	Youssef MOHAMAD (Leb)	01.07.80
13	Stefan MULLER	08.03.74
18	Seyi OLAJENGBESI (Nig)	17.11.80
2	Daniel SCHUMANN	13.02.77

MIDFIELDERS

12	Roda ANTAR (Leb)	12.09.80
6	Zlatan BAJRAMOVIC (Bos)	12.08.79
15	Bruno BERNER (Swi)	21.11.77
21	Dennis BUHRER	13.03.83
10	Soumaila COULIBALY (Mli)	15.04.78
32	Torge HOLLMANN	28.01.82
11	Dennis KRUPPKE	01.04.80
27	Jonathan PITROIPA (BuF)	12.04.86
22	Sascha RIETHER	23.03.83
7	Levan TSKITISHVILI (Geo)	10.10.76
29	Tobias WILLI	14.12.79

FORWARDS

8	Ellery CAIRO (Hol)	03.08.78
26	Regis DORN (Fra)	22.12.79
9	Alexander IASHVILI (Geo)	23.10.77
14	Abder RAMDANE (Fra)	23.02.74
23	Wilfried SANOU (BuF)	16.03.84
33	Ibrahim TANKO (Gha)	25.07.77

COACH

Volker FINKE	24.03.48

HAMBURG

GOALKEEPERS

12	Sascha KIRSCHSTEIN	09.06.80
1	Martin PIECKENHAGEN	15.11.71
29	Stefan WACHTER	20.04.78

DEFENDERS

21	Khaled BOULAHROUZ (Hol)	28.12.81
17	Jean Carlos DONDE (Bra)	12.08.83
18	Oliver HAMPEL	09.06.85
15	Stephan KLING	22.03.81
4	Bastian REINHARDT	19.11.75
2	Bjorn SCHLICKE	23.06.81
5	Daniel VAN BUYTEN (Blg)	07.02.78

MIDFIELDERS

22	Stefan BEINLICH	13.01.72
28	Collin BENJAMIN (Nam)	03.08.78
24	Miso BRECKO (Sln)	01.05.84
13	Leonhard HAAS	09.01.85
14	David JAROLIM (Cze)	17.05.79
31	Alexander LAAS	05.05.84
8	MOREIRA (Por)	16.06.78
3	Christian RAHN	15.06.79
6	Raphael WICKY (Swi)	26.04.77

FORWARDS

10	Sergej BARBAREZ (Bos)	17.09.71
29	Vyacheslav HLEB (Bls)	12.02.83
11	Benjamin LAUTH	04.08.81
7	Mehdi MAHDAVIKIA (Irn)	24.07.77
25	Emile MPENZA (Blg)	04.07.78
9	Bernardo ROMEO (Arg)	10.09.77
30	Eren SEN	28.09.84
32	Nachiro TAKAHARA (Jap)	04.06.79

COACH

Klaus TOPPMOLLER	12.08.51

HANNOVER 96

GOALKEEPERS

1	Robert ENKE	24.08.77
30	Daniel HAAS	01.08.83
25	Frank JURIC (Aus)	28.10.73

DEFENDERS

6	Steve CHERUNDOLO (USA)	19.02.79
4	Dame DIOUF (Sen)	31.03.78
29	Per MERTESACKER	29.09.84
34	Markus SCHINNER	20.01.81
14	Thomas SCHNEIDER	24.11.72
18	Michael TARNAT	27.10.69
2	VINICIUS (Bra)	31.07.80
3	Dariusz ZURAW (Pol)	14.11.72

MIDFIELDERS

16	Tranquillo BARNETTA (Swi)	22.05.85
20	Vladimir BUT (Rus)	07.09.77
5	Christoph DABROWSKI	01.07.78
22	Julian DE GUZMAN (Can)	25.03.81
17	Nebojsa KRUPNIKOVIC (Ser)	15.08.73
8	Altin LALA (Alb)	18.11.75
15	Clint MATHIS (USA)	25.11.76
27	Silvio SCHROTER	29.06.79
10	Ricardo SOUSA (Por)	11.01.79
19	Danijel STEFULJ (Cro)	02.06.73

FORWARDS

9	Thomas CHRISTIANSEN (Spa)	11.03.73
7	Mohammadou IDRISSOU (Cam)	08.03.80
28	Jiri KAUFMAN (Cze)	28.11.79
21	LEANDRO (Bra)	14.02.75
24	Jiri STAJNER (Cze)	27.05.76
11	Daniel STENDEL	04.04.74
13	Roman WALLNER (Aut)	04.02.82
32	Denis WOLF	15.01.83

COACH

Ewald LIENEN	28.11.53

NURNBERG

GOALKEEPERS

18	Daniel KLEWER	04.03.77
12	Raphael SCHAFER	30.01.79
30	Philipp TSCHAUNER	03.11.85

DEFENDERS

20	Bartosz BOSACKI (Pol)	20.12.75
4	Tomasz HAJTO (Pol)	16.10.72
7	Marek NIKL (Cze)	20.02.76
31	Thomas PAULUS	14.03.82
28	Dominik REINHARDT	19.12.84
14	Leandro SILVA (Bra)	06.07.82
3	Frank WIBLISHAUSER	18.10.77
5	Andreas WOLF	12.06.82

MIDFIELDERS

10	Ivica BANOVIC (Cro)	02.08.80
13	Mario CANTALUPPI (Swi)	11.04.74
8	Marcel KETELAER	03.11.77
11	Marek MINTAL (Slk)	02.09.77
17	Lars MULLER	22.03.76
6	Sven MULLER	04.04.80
34	Samuel SLOVAK (Slk)	17.10.75
16	Tommy SVINDAL LARSEN (Nor)	11.08.73
26	Maik WAGEFELD	25.02.81

FORWARDS

22	Lawrence AIDOO (Gha)	14.01.82
9	Markus DAUN	10.09.80
27	Stefan KIESSLING	25.01.84
21	Markus SCHROTH	25.01.75
33	Robert VITTEK (Slk)	01.04.82

COACH

Wolfgang WOLF	24.09.57

HANSA ROSTOCK

GOALKEEPERS

25	Carsten BUSCH	07.08.80
21	Axel KELLER	25.03.77
1	Mathias SCHOBER	08.04.76

DEFENDERS

20	Delano HILL (Hol)	29.04.75
23	Denis LAPACZINSKI	26.09.81
5	Kim MADSEN (Den)	13.02.78
6	Ronald MAUL	13.02.73
18	Gabriel MELKAM (Nig)	13.03.80
3	Uwe MOHRLE	03.12.79
13	Tim SEBASTIAN	17.01.84
2	Razundara TJIKUZU (Nam)	12.12.79

MIDFIELDERS

4	Godfried ADUOBE (Gha)	29.10.75
22	Kevin HANSEN	13.08.79
17	Marcus LANTZ (Swe)	23.10.75
10	Thomas MEGGLE	22.02.75
14	Joakim PERSSON (Swe)	03.04.75
8	David RASMUSSEN (Den)	01.12.76
27	Thomas RASMUSSEN (Den)	16.04.77
7	Rene RYDLEWICZ	18.07.73

FORWARDS

24	Marcus ALLBACK (Swe)	05.07.73
15	Magnus ARVIDSSON (Swe)	12.02.73
19	Antonio DI SALVO (Ita)	05.06.79
11	Rade PRICA (Swe)	30.06.80
30	Marco VORBECK	24.06.81

COACH

Juri SCHLUNZ	27.07.61

SCHALKE

GOALKEEPERS

13	Christofer HEIMEROTH	01.08.81
1	Frank ROST	30.06.73
29	Volkan UNLU (Tur)	08.07.83

DEFENDERS

5	Marcelo Jose BORDON (Bra)	07.01.76
27	Tim HOOGLAND	11.06.85
4	Thomas KLASENER	14.08.76
3	Levan KOBIASHVILI (Geo)	10.07.77
20	Mladen KRSTAJIC (Ser)	04.03.74
23	Fabian LAMOTTE	25.02.83
24	Christian PANDER	28.08.83
30	Christian PETEREIT	01.02.84
16	Dario RODRIGUEZ (Uru)	17.09.74
12	Marco VAN HOOGDALEM (Hol)	23.05.72
15	Tomasz WALDOCH (Pol)	10.05.71

MIDFIELDERS

6	Hamit ALTINTOP (Tur)	08.12.82
8	Jorg BOHME	22.01.74
7	Michael DELURA	01.07.85
25	Kai HESSE	20.06.85
5	Sven KMETSCH	13.08.70
10	LINCOLN (Bra)	22.01.79
18	Niels OUDE KAMPHUIS (Hol)	14.11.77
2	Christian POULSEN (Den)	28.02.80
19	Gustavo VARELA (Uru)	14.05.78
17	Sven VERMANT (Blg)	04.04.73

FORWARDS

9	AILTON (Bra)	19.07.73
14	Gerald ASAMOAH	03.10.78
26	Mike HANKE	05.11.83
11	Ebbe SAND (Den)	19.07.72

COACH

Ralf RANGNICK	29.06.58

HERTHA BERLIN

GOALKEEPERS

12	Christian FIEDLER	27.03.75
1	Gerhard TREMMEL	16.11.78

DEFENDERS

23	Dennis CAGARA (Den)	19.02.85
28	Sofian CHAHED	18.04.83
29	Malik FATHI	29.10.83
3	Arne FRIEDRICH	29.05.79
21	Michael HARTMANN	11.07.74
17	Alexander MADLUNG	11.07.82
33	Marko REHMER	29.04.72
22	Oliver SCHRODER	11.06.80
14	Josip SIMUNIC (Cro)	18.02.78
4	Dick VAN BURIK (Hol)	29.11.73

MIDFIELDERS

7	Yildiray BASTURK (Tur)	24.12.78
18	Pal DARDAI (Hun)	16.03.76
11	GILBERTO (Bra)	25.04.76
5	Niko KOVAC (Cro)	15.10.71
25	Alexander LUDWIG	31.01.84
10	MARCELINHO (Bra)	17.05.75
32	Thorben MARX	01.06.81
37	Christian MULLER	28.02.84
20	Andreas NEUENDORF	09.02.75
19	Andreas SCHMIDT	14.09.73

FORWARDS

13	Fredi BOBIC	30.10.71
16	Ashkan DEJAGAH	05.07.86
24	Nando RAFAEL (Ang)	10.01.84
15	Giuseppe REINA	15.04.72
18	Artur WICHNIAREK (Pol)	28.02.77

COACH

Falko GOTZ	26.03.62

STUTTGART

GOALKEEPERS

31	Diego BENAGLIO (Swi)	08.09.83
23	Dirk HEINEN	03.12.70
1	Timo HILDEBRAND	05.04.79

DEFENDERS

5	Markus BABBEL	08.09.72
29	Steffen DANGELMAYR	09.09.78
17	Mathieu DELPIERRE (Fra)	26.04.81
6	FERNANDO MEIRA (Por)	05.06.78
2	Andreas HINKEL	26.03.82
21	Philipp LAHM	11.11.83
3	Martin STRANZL (Aut)	16.06.80
4	Boris ZIVKOVIC (Cro)	15.11.75

MIDFIELDERS

26	Marco CALIGIURI	14.04.84
14	Emanuel CENTURION (Arg)	25.08.82
12	Heiko GERBER	11.07.72
16	Horst HELDT	09.12.69
15	Alexander HLEB (Bls)	01.05.81
7	Silvio MEISSNER	19.01.73
20	Zvonimir SOLDO (Cro)	02.11.67
37	Ivan STOJANOV (Bul)	24.07.83
13	Christian TIFFERT	18.02.82
8	Jurica VRANJES (Cro)	31.01.80
11	Hakan YAKIN (Swi)	22.02.77

FORWARDS

18	CACAU (Bra)	27.03.81
33	Mario GOMEZ	10.07.85
22	Kevin KURANYI	02.03.82
9	Marco STRELLER (Swi)	18.06.81
19	Imre SZABICS (Hun)	22.03.81

COACH

Matthias SAMMER	05.09.67

KAISERSLAUTERN

GOALKEEPERS

21	Thomas ERNST	23.12.67
1	Tim WIESE	17.12.81

DEFENDERS

37	Thomas DRESCHER	24.11.78
8	Dimitrios GRAMMOZIS (Gre)	08.07.78
5	Ingo HERTZSCH	22.07.77
2	Herve Nzelo LEMBI (DRC)	25.08.75
32	Lucien METTOMO (Cam)	19.04.77
7	Hany RAMZY (Egy)	10.03.69
3	Bill TCHATO (Cam)	14.05.75
4	Timo WENZEL	30.11.77

MIDFIELDERS

20	Marco ENGELHARDT	02.12.80
18	Jurgen GJASULA	05.12.85
30	Kamil KOSOWSKI (Pol)	30.08.77
25	Michael LEHMANN	16.10.84
28	Stefan MALZ	15.06.72
14	Mihail MIKIC (Cro)	06.01.80
6	Christian NERLINGER	21.03.73
24	Mika NURMELA (Fin)	26.12.71
23	Thomas RIEDL	18.06.76
17	Jochen SEITZ	11.10.76
13	Ciriaco SFORZA (Swi)	02.03.70
33	Patrick WITTICH	03.07.82
10	Ferydoon ZANDI	26.04.79

FORWARDS

19	Halil ALTINTOP (Tur)	08.12.82
11	Ioannis AMANATIDIS (Gre)	03.12.81
9	Carsten JANCKER	28.08.74
29	Selim TEBER	07.03.81
22	Christian TIMM	27.02.79

COACH

Kurt JARA (Aut)	14.10.50

WERDER BREMEN

GOALKEEPERS

16	Pascal BOREL	26.09.78
1	Andreas REINKE	10.01.69
31	Alexander WALKE	06.06.83

DEFENDERS

2	Frank FAHRENHORST	24.09.77
25	Valerien ISMAEL (Fra)	28.09.75
3	Petri PASANEN (Fin)	24.09.80
27	Christian SCHULZ	01.04.83
7	Paul STALTERI (Can)	18.10.77

MIDFIELDERS

6	Frank BAUMANN	29.10.75
36	Stefan BECKERT	03.05.82
24	Tim BOROWSKI	02.05.80
4	Fabian ERNST	30.05.79
14	Aaron HUNT	04.09.86
20	Daniel JENSEN (Den)	25.06.79
15	Pekka LAGERBLOM (Fin)	19.10.82
8	Krisztian LISZTES (Hun)	02.07.76
23	Ludovic MAGNIN (Swi)	20.04.79
10	Johan MICOUD (Fra)	24.07.73
13	Gustavo NERY (Bra)	22.07.77

FORWARDS

9	Angelos HARISTEAS (Gre)	09.02.80
17	Ivan KLASNIC (Cro)	29.01.80
11	Miroslav KLOSE	09.06.78
35	Marco STIER	26.03.84
38	Nelson HAEDO VALDEZ (Par)	28.11.83

COACH

Thomas SCHAAF	30.04.61

MAINZ

GOALKEEPERS

23	Sven HOFFMEISTER	13.10.70
1	Dimo WACHE	01.11.73
29	Christian WETKLO	11.01.80

DEFENDERS

28	Mathias ABEL	22.06.81
26	Tamas BODOG (Hun)	27.09.70
3	Michael FALKENMAYER	26.11.82
10	Manuel FRIEDRICH	13.09.79
5	Peter NEUSTADTER	16.02.66
18	Robert NIKOLIC	01.08.68
4	Nikolce NOVESKI (Mac)	28.04.79
17	Marco ROSE	11.09.76
2	Marco WALKER (Swi)	02.05.70
24	Benjamin WEIGELT	04.09.82

MIDFIELDERS

33	Mimoun AZAOUAGH	17.11.82
19	Christof BABATZ	03.09.74
25	Antonio DA SILVA (Bra)	13.06.78
8	Fabian GERBER	28.11.79
14	Jurgen KRAMNY	18.10.71
9	Dennis WEILAND	30.08.74

FORWARDS

7	Benjamin AUER	11.01.81
21	Conor CASEY (USA)	25.07.81
11	Markus DWORRAK	23.01.78
20	Ranisav JOVANOVIC (Ser)	05.11.80
15	Christoph TEINERT	30.01.80
16	Claudius WEBER	15.04.78
22	Niclas WEILAND	22.07.72

COACH

Jurgen KLOPP	16.06.67

WOLFSBURG

GOALKEEPERS

1	Simon JENTZSCH	04.05.76
30	Andre LENZ	19.11.73
40	Patrick PLATINS	19.04.83

DEFENDERS

3	Marino BILISKOV (Cro)	17.03.76
33	Maik FRANZ	05.08.81
29	Kevin HOFLAND (Hol)	07.06.79
18	Facundo QUIROGA (Arg)	10.01.78
2	Thomas RYTTER (Den)	06.01.74
5	Stefan SCHNOOR	18.04.71
7	Patrick WEISER	25.12.71

MIDFIELDERS

16	Oscar AHUMADA (Arg)	31.08.82
10	Andres D'ALESSANDRO (Arg)	15.04.81
26	Karsten FISCHER	27.05.84
20	Mirko HRGOVIC (Bos)	05.02.79
8	Marian HRISTOV (Bul)	29.07.73
27	Miroslav KARHAN (Slk)	21.06.76
31	Hans SARPEI (Gha)	28.06.76
6	Pablo THIAM (Gui)	03.01.74

FORWARDS

13	Thomas BRDARIC	23.01.75
9	Diego KLIMOWICZ (Spa)	06.07.74
11	Tomislav MARIC (Cro)	28.01.73
36	Juan Carlos MENSEGUEZ (Arg)	18.02.84
21	Martin PETROV (Bul)	15.01.79
34	Roy PRAGER	22.09.71
14	Marko TOPIC (Bos)	01.01.76

COACH

Erik GERETS (Blg)	18.05.54

Reserve judgement

Frisk's Roman mauling raises questions about the role of the fourth official

FOURTH OFFICIALS HAVE no point if, when push comes to shove, they are not qualified to do the job of a real referee.

The oddest factor attending the Roman mauling of Anders Frisk was his insistence on abandoning the match when he had a fourth official ready and waiting.

Isn't being ready for action in an emergency precisely what a fourth official is about? After all, it doesn't take a FIFA referee's badge to be able to press a few buttons on a scoreboard or ask a manager politely to step back inside his technical area.

Frisk loves the big occasion and his body language tells you how much he enjoys being centre stage. Fortunately, he is also a good referee. But the Swede's judgement let him down after he was struck by the missile which was a Roma hooligan's retaliation for his expulsion of Philippe Mexes against Kyiv Dynamo.

Maybe we should put it down to the blow to the head. But then, all manner of UEFA officials attend such matches to assist when matters blow out of the referee's proportion. Notoriously, the reason the 1985 European Cup Final went ahead at Heysel with 39 dead and hundreds injured was to prevent thousands more angry fans milling around the stadium. That was the risk taken by Frisk at the Stadio Olimpico. Fortunately, the chaos was resolved comparatively peacefully. But then, it was also perhaps fortunate that Dynamo were the visitors and not an English (or even Dutch or German) club with far more potentially angry fans present.

So who was the fourth official who was so untrustworthy? He was Frisk's compatriot, Jonas Eriksson, who is a FIFA referee, not 'merely' an assistant. He is also, at 30, 11 years younger than Frisk but with UEFA Cup refereeing experience to his name.

'Isn't being ready for action in an emergency what a fourth official is all about?'

In fact, Frisk did Roma a favour in grabbing all the gory glory. His abandonment of the match gave the Italian club the get-out to fight, successfully, against expulsion from the Champions League. The reason? Because the abandonment was by order of the referee not enforced by hooligan misbehaviour.

Poor Frisk. His return home proved just as ill-starred. A week later he was the target for more missiles, and an attempted assault, after an ugly League duel between Helsingborgs and Landskrona. Fortunately, he escaped unscathed – albeit with a police escort.

Pain game...Frisk is protected by an assistant referee after being struck by an object thrown from the crowd

Superstars earn their status

Not so long ago out-of-form superstars were allowed time to play themselves back into the mood because their contribution – even muted – was better than a kid or a has-been from the reserves.

Not any longer. Not with today's top-heavy squads.

That's why Internazionale have not been weeping over Christian Vieri's latest injury saga – they also have Adriano and Obafemi Martins – and it's why Real Madrid will not be crying about Michael Owen's fringe status. Star players are expected to be more than their image, they're expected to earn that status. Not a bad development.

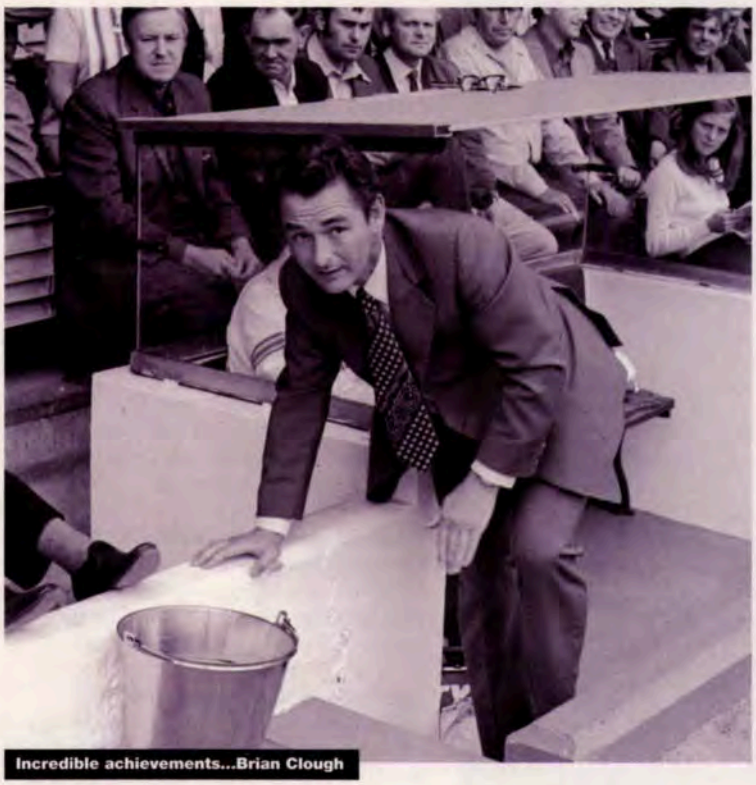
Zola's Peter Pan penalty

Wonderful to see Wayne Rooney prove that Roy of the Rovers is alive and well and reincarnated in Manchester. The dream debut he enjoyed against Fenerbahce is the reality show that maintains football's magical allure for another young generation.

But four days later, equally important but comparatively unnoticed, was an opportunity to celebrate the game's Peter Pan potential.

The occasion was the Serie A match between promoted Cagliari and Brescia. When Gianfranco Zola, now 38 but as sprightly as ever, converted a penalty to push Cagliari into the lead, it was his first goal in Serie A for eight years.

Super player and exemplary spirit.



Incredible achievements...Brian Clough

Clough: among the greats

Brian Clough stands, arguably, among the leading three English managers of all time.

Sir Alf Ramsey is up there for winning England's lone World Cup, and Herbert Chapman for his commanding ingenuity with Arsenal. Next comes Clough, for achievements that are impossible to repeat. The rebalancing of English League finances since the 1970s and early 1980s make it impossible for a struggling second level club to rise to conquer not only England but also Europe.

Bob Paisley won far more. But then, he built on the foundations laid by Bill Shankly. Clough, first at Derby and then at Nottingham Forest, had first to dig the foundations himself.

Everyone has their favourite Clough story. Mine relates to his ill-fated 44 days at Leeds and an unimpressive 1-0 home win over Birmingham City.

That was also the season when promoted Carlisle United went off like a rocket (and ended up being relegated). Clough stalked into the press room after the match and asked us all: "How did Carlisle get on?"

Someone said: "They won again."

Clough laughed: "We'll walk it."

Little more than a fortnight later he did walk...out of the Elland Road door.

Players stuck in the middle over fixtures debate

The issue of fixtures pressure is becoming more and more deeply entrenched as football's political...well, football. Everyone has an axe to grind, with the players just piggies in the middle.

We find a variety of motley factions arranged around this particular pitch, headed by FIFA, the national associations, national coaches, leagues and clubs.

Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini made an integrated unified international calendar one of the key platforms of Blatter's presidential manifesto in 1998. The theory is great. Trouble is, the calendar is now being used to score points in the tedious club v country battle.

The English FA is hamstrung by the irreconcilable differences between the professional and the grassroots games.

So it is with the international calendar, and the clubs had better beware. The calendar is the blunt instrument with which FIFA wants to beat the leagues (and, by implication, the clubs) into submission.

FIFA, understandably, wants to protect its own income stream, which is dependent on maintaining the commercial value of the World Cup.

FIFA can ensure enough space in the calendar for its own competitions by keeping a tight grip on the number of matches footballers play for their clubs. And if FIFA competitions have their own independent slots, the clubs (in theory) have less of a case to claim compensation for national team calls.

A generation ago the issue of club v country was fought out domestically, almost behind closed doors. But international authorities did not then fiddle their competitions to produce gargantuan qualifying groups.

The World Cup finals came around once every four years and involved a mere 16 nations. The European Championship demanded the attention of a mere four. The Copa America was staged haphazardly, whenever CONMEBOL could get around to it, and generally with reserve teams lacking the Europe-based stars.

Franz Beckenbauer once proposed that Europe's qualifying contests for World Cups and European Championships should be thinned out, with just the group winners going through.

It's amazing no one with players' interests at heart took it up. After all, it would ease that fixtures pressure.

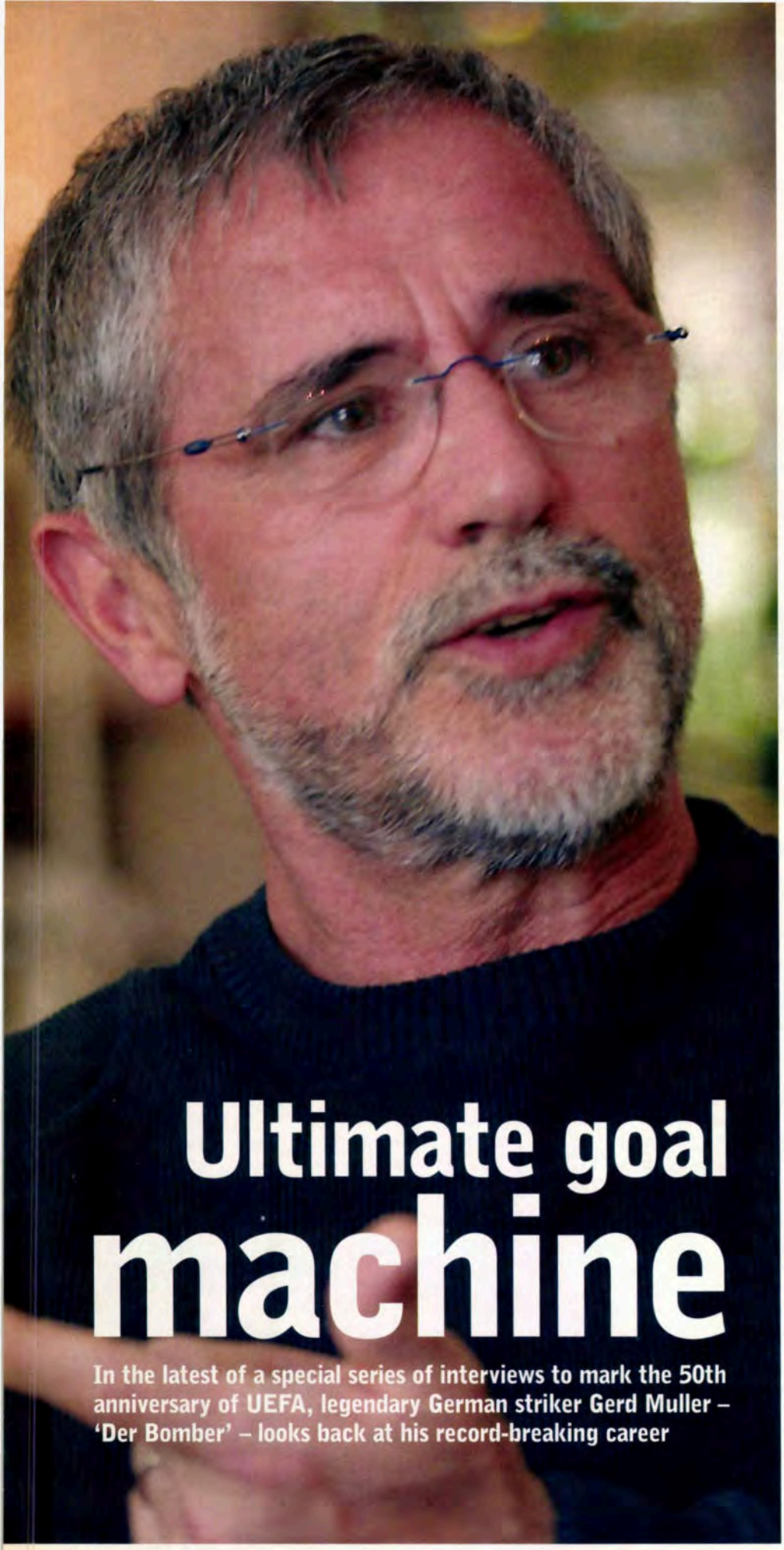
Gill losing out in percentage game

Presidents who pay themselves to be chief executives in Spain use a neat formula based on success or failure. Augusto Lendoiro of Deportivo La Coruna, for example, is among those paid one per cent of his club's turnover.

If you applied that system in England, then David Gill of Manchester United, who declared a drop in turnover last year from £172million to £169m, would have seen his pay drop by £30,000. But then, he would still have been on £1.69m a year – which is, by all accounts, very, very far from the case.

Perhaps he needs an agent.

Money matters...David Gill



Ultimate goal machine

In the latest of a special series of interviews to mark the 50th anniversary of UEFA, legendary German striker Gerd Muller – 'Der Bomber' – looks back at his record-breaking career

UEFA 1954 50 years 2004

Your scoring record speaks for itself: 365 goals in 427 League games, 66 in 74 European Cup matches, and 68 in 62 games for Germany. How did you manage it?

I already had an instinct for scoring goals when I was younger. It's something you just can't learn. I simply tended to react more quickly than my opponents and I would always follow up shots in the hope of a rebound. There were plenty of times of course when it came to nothing.

Did you do any kind of special training?

No, it's not something you can train for. But I did train with several teams in my home town of Nordlingen, with the youth teams as well as the first team or even the veterans. On Saturdays I would play for the B-youth team in the morning and the A-youth in the afternoon.

When did you first realise that you had this knack of scoring goals?

When I was a kid, playing in the street. The other lads knew that I could knock in the goals and they even let me play with the bigger boys.

Later on, somebody coined the word 'mullern' to describe that special way you had of scoring goals, of getting the ball into the net using all sorts of different parts of the body and from any position. It seems it was something that nobody before or since you has been able to do.

Strikers today tend not to react enough, they don't follow up. A striker should always be on the move, hoping to get a rebound here or there.

Was it some kind of trick of yours to strike the ball fairly softly rather than whack it like most others – and usually on the turn?

That's the way I naturally played already as a junior: I would get into a shooting position, set to shoot, and the defender would usually go along with it – then I would drag the ball past him, turn and shoot, with either foot.

And all that close to goal, without much room to move...

I didn't really think that much about shooting from 20 metres; I liked to play in the penalty area, in front of goal.

What was your best goal?

In the replay of the European Cup Final against Atletico Madrid, in Brussels on May 17, 1974. I brought the ball down, turned and thrashed it into the roof of the net from a really tight angle. That made it 2-0 and we went on to win 4-0.

Was the winner in the 1974 World Cup Final your most important goal?

There were several, really, such as the goal in the 1975 European Cup Final against Leeds in Paris, that made it 2-0 [the final score] – but when a goal wins the World Cup, then that really makes it special. When I scored that one, the ball had actually just popped up off my left foot, but thank God I was able to react fastest and knock it into the far corner.

What would you say was the strangest goal you ever scored?

The fourth of my four goals for Germany against the Soviet Union in Munich in May 1972, when we won 4-1. Gunter Netzer hit the post, the ball came back, I shot, it hit the keeper's foot and went in.

Which match was the biggest for you?

The quarter-final of the European Championship at Wembley in April 1972. It was the first time Germany had ever beaten England away. We won 3-1, I scored one, and it was a superb game.

A couple of years earlier there had been another unforgettable game, but not because of the two goals you scored...

Yes, you mean that World Cup semi-final in Mexico, when we lost 4-3 against Italy after extra-time. We really felt hard done by that day! That's one game I just can't watch any more – even though I thought the 1970 World Cup was the best.

You were top scorer in 1970, with 10 goals. You also finished Bundesliga top scorer seven times and were Europe's top scorer in 1970 with 38 goals and in 1972 with 40. In 1970 you were voted European Footballer of the Year, and Germany's Player of the Year in 1967 and 1969. So many awards – which one meant the most to you?

Being named last year as the most successful player in 40 years of the Bundesliga – and the European Footballer of the Year award in 1970.

You gave up playing for the national team after winning the World Cup in 1974, although you were only 28. Too early?

It might have been a mistake. But the reason had nothing to do with the fact the players' wives had not been allowed to come to the banquet after the World Cup Final, as people had said at the time. I simply wanted to be able to spend more time with my daughter, then a little girl, and I was spending so much time away from home with Bayern.

You were the Bundesliga's best-ever scorer and yet you missed 12 of the 63 penalties you took in League matches.

Did I really miss that many? I can remember missing one in Hamburg. And I hit one over the bar once against Yugoslavia. We lost both matches. I did get a bit nervous if the score was 0-0 or we were only one goal up.

When you were a boy, did you dream of being a footballer?

No. It wasn't until I was 16 and playing for the Bavarian regional team that I began to think about it.

And Bayern were your dream team?

Absolutely not! I was a passionate fan of 1. FC Nurnberg and went to most of their matches. When we were kids, playing in the street, I always pretended to be Max Morlock, the idol of Nurnberg.

So how did you finish up at Bayern?

There was a hairdresser who had about 20 barber's shops in the Allgau region of southern Germany; I was playing once in Fussen, in Allgau, and he spotted me. He told people about me, but I believe Bayern only really did anything about it when city rivals TSV 1860 started to show interest.

In on goal...(clockwise from top left) Muller hits the winner in the 1974 World Cup Final; Ronaldo – Muller's pick of today's strikers; the German's best goal, v Atletico Madrid; England v West Germany in 1972

'Strikers today tend not to react enough, they don't follow up'

Too bad for them!

Well, I wouldn't have gone to TSV anyway because I wouldn't have had a chance of a place in their team at the time – they had great forwards in Heiss, Kuppers, Brunnenmeier and Rebele, and were playing in the Bundesliga while Bayern were still only in the regional league.

Your best season was 1971-72, when you scored 40 – a total nobody has equalled. Roy Makaay, Bayern's current top striker, says this record will never be broken; Franz Beckenbauer reckons that if you were playing today, you could score 80! What do you think?

Eighty is a lot! But I think I could manage 40. These days, a centre-forward has more room against a four-man defence; in my day, there would be one defender marking us closely, and then you still had a sweeper to deal with after him. And we used to get much rougher treatment than they do today!

Who is the best striker in the world at the moment?

Ronaldo, thanks to his speed.

The best European?

Ruud Van Nistelrooy – he's always on the move, he's fast, he can shoot with both feet, he's always a danger around goal and chases after everything.

You work as co-trainer of the regional amateur team at Bayern. What does your daily programme look like?

I'm at the training ground by 7.30 in the morning and meet up with a few youth players in the players' lodgings there. Then I have a chat with the amateur coach, Hermann Gerland, and by 10 o'clock we're out on the pitch. I take some time out at lunch-time to play tennis, have a sauna or massage, then there's the afternoon training session. But I also have time to be a grandfather, which I love.

Franz Beckenbauer once said that Bayern have Gerd Muller to thank for everything the club has become...

I take that as an honour. But the other players did their bit. I had a telepathic understanding with Franz, especially when we played those little one-twos – but woe betide me if I didn't get it right!

Gerd Muller was speaking exclusively to Karlheinz Wild of Kicker *magazine, a member of the ESM (European Sports Magazines) group*

FOOTBALL MEMORIES

Brian Glanville on English coach Ted Crawford and Italian sweeper Armando Picchi, who both had spells at Tuscan club Livorno

Linked by Livorno

LIVORNO are back in Serie A, for the first time since 1949. That evokes memories of Ted Crawford, who managed them in the early 1950s, and of Armando Picchi, who cut his teeth with the club, his local side, before going on to become sweeper and skipper of the Inter team that for a time dominated Italian and European football.

I first met Crawford in autumn 1952, soon after I had also gone to live in Tuscany, in Florence. The rugged Yorkshireman had been managing Livorno until losing his job after they were relegated from Serie B at the end of the previous season.

The club's last game of the campaign had been a matter of win or bust. Failure would mean a drop to Serie C. The word went round that Livorno had bought the match, but Crawford, who had encountered match-fixing during his time at Serie A side Bologna, addressed his players in the dressing-room before the match, telling them: "You think this game is fixed. I'm telling you it's not been fixed."

Photograph by Carbonera Co., Liverpool
Back Row—G. Hodgson, T. Morrison, W. Steel, E. Scott, A. J. Riley, A. McPherson, D. Wright, J. G. Gunson
Front Row—G. S. Patterson (Secretary Manager), H. Barton, J. Jackson, T. Bradshaw, J. McDougal, E. Crawford, C. Wilson (Trainer)

Playing days...Crawford (front row, second from right) at Liverpool

At this point the club secretary came into the room and went whispering round the players, who then smiled tolerantly at Crawford, saying: "Yes, Meester, yes, yes, Meester!" Then they went out on the field...and lost. It transpired that the secretary had divided the bribe money with the manager of the other side!

Crawford was dismissed, and I found him a forlorn figure. "They told me they were going to give me a nice house," he lamented. "Nice house? S****house!"

Gone on to great things...Picchi lifts the European Cup with Inter in 1965

amateur club, appointed him coach until he was abruptly dismissed. Crawford never, alas, got another job in football, and worked thereafter as a storeman.

As a player, he made a bright start with first Halifax Town, then Liverpool, where he scored frequently at centre-forward. He played at inside-left at Clapton Orient, where he ended his career, eventually discovering that, incredibly, he had been playing on a broken ankle for six years.

Picchi, a sturdy, ubiquitous

'With his usual originality Crawford coached AEK Athens' part-time players to third in the League'

Back in England, Crawford found it hard to find another job, and eventually was appointed by AEK Athens, then by no means the major club they are today. Yet, coaching his part-time players with his usual originality, Crawford took the club to third position in the League, before ill luck afflicted him again.

Safety concerns

Enosis, the uprising in Cyprus to end British rule, moved the AEK directors to say they could not guarantee the safety of the coach because the insurrection might have had repercussions for British citizens on the Greek mainland.

So back to England he went, a prophet without honour in his own country. Eventually, Barnet, then an sweeper, was not picked for Italy's ill-fated World Cup trip in 1966, but he came to London anyway, and I had the honour of playing beside him in a game in Battersea Park. Picchi had not brought shorts with him and played in his underpants, but with all the determination as if it were indeed the World Cup. He berated an unfortunate fat little team-mate who was struggling on the wing, crying: *"Ah, Pastasciutta! Non e come dalla tribuna!"* (Ah, Pastasciutta [a nickname], it isn't like it looks from the stand!)

Back in Italy, he was immediately restored to the national team, in which he kept his place even after Inter let him move to Varese. In all, Picchi won a dozen caps but died, alas, from cancer, at the age of 36. He was a genial, decent fellow.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
NOVEMBER 1963

Forty-one years ago, Eric Batty predicted an all-African World Cup Final

November 1963 TWO SHILLINGS

WORLD SOCCER

Bukta

AFRICA WILL EMERGE FROM OUT OF THE DARKNESS

"ONE day last summer I was discussing with a continental journalist friend the outcome of the World Cup in Chile. Results were much as expected, but the standard of play generally was disappointing, and my morbid view at that time was that if the present defensive trend continued, it would, coupled with a definite slide in the individual standards of play in the European game, lead to the end of football as a spectacle.

We agreed that years of soft living had sapped European players' appetite for soccer. If football was ever going to enjoy another golden age, it seemed clear that either the Western world must return to the poverty prevalent during an economic crisis which would clearly have to go on for many years, and was thus extremely unlikely, or a new, vast under-developed area would have to take over responsibility for the game. Though my friend thought I was joking, I offered to bet a small sum that the Final of the 1978 World Cup would be staged between Ghana and Egypt.

Soon the Africans will cast a decisive vote over anything decided within FIFA and if as seems likely they get together they will be able to force a compromise deal with Europe and South America. I can visualise a deal in which the Africans agree to vote the right to stage the World Cup in Germany, Spain, Argentina or Mexico on the understanding that the next time it will be staged in Africa – with the most likely choice being Ghana, Egypt or Morocco.

In that event, all the advantages lie with the home country and their neighbours, and remember too that African football is improving every year, that their potential is unlimited, and while their resources are very thin, their determination is beyond doubt."

FOOTBALL LINGO

8 Knipser

A goal poacher. From the German verb *knipsen*, to punch.

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QUIZ

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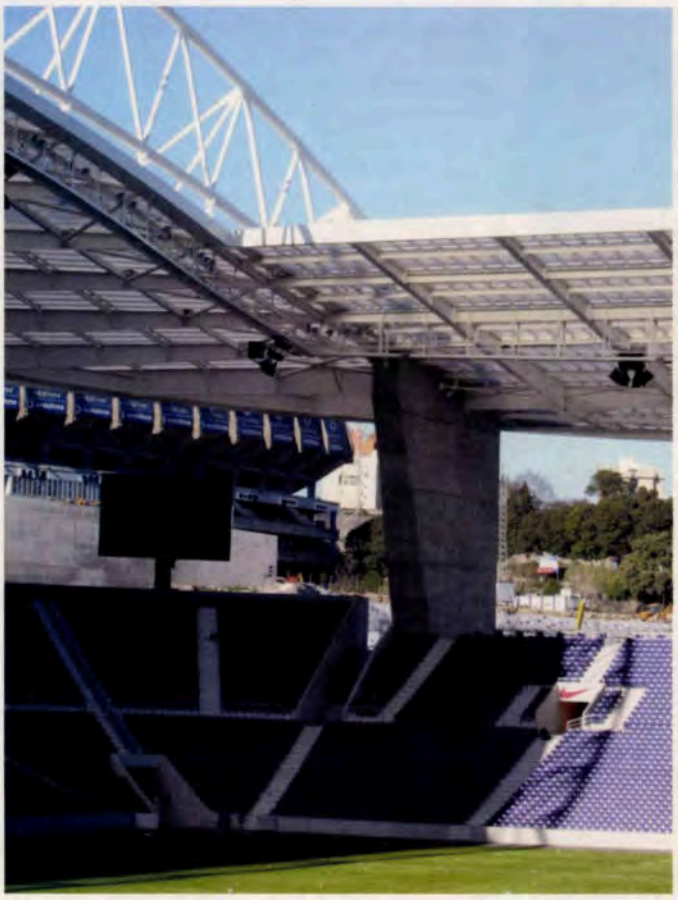
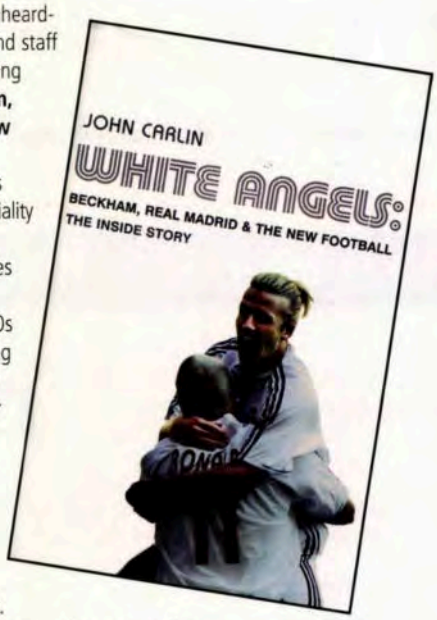
THIS MONTH'S POSER:

Name the famous stadium pictured



SEPTEMBER QUIZ WINNER
Craig Napier, Glasgow. **Answer:** Celta Vigo's stadium

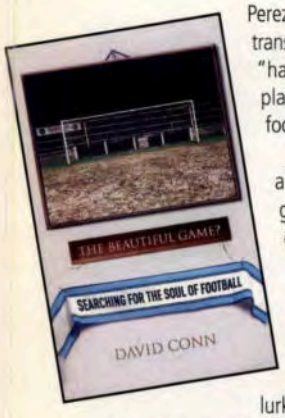
Fallen angels



JOHN CARLIN received unheard-of access to the players and staff of Real Madrid while writing **White Angels: Beckham, Real Madrid & The New Football** (Bloomsbury, £16.99). But the price has been his journalistic impartiality and, indeed, credibility.

European football owes a huge debt to the Real Madrid teams of the 1950s for their role in establishing the European Champions Cup as the world's premier club competition. But Carlin has been seduced by the myth of the modern-day *galacticos*. In particular, he has succumbed to the charm of Florentino Perez.

The Real president is portrayed as a crusading, religious figure – "he venerates the club, like a cardinal his cathedral" – on a lifelong mission to establish Real Madrid's global dominance. The reality is that Perez has simply used Manchester United as his club's commercial template.

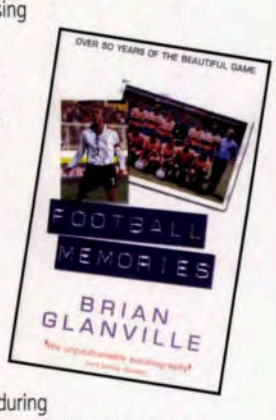


Carlin's extravagant prose is not confined to Perez. Concluding his account of David Beckham's transfer from Man United, he writes that Beckham "had finally found refuge in a safe, magical place, a football heaven where they played football like angels, and everybody wore white".

It is a shame Carlin has produced this air-brushed, sanitised hagiography because, given his access, he could have written the definitive account of the Perez era at Real.

Football needs more people like David Conn. His latest book, **The Beautiful Game?** (Yellow Jersey, £12), digs behind the gloss of the Premiership to uncover the many stories – good and bad – lurking in English football's pyramid structure.

It's an outstanding but ultimately depressing analysis of the current state of the English game, with Conn's essential message being that what has happened since Hillsborough has not been fair to the millions of ordinary fans whose money funds English football. What the book lacks is Conn's alternative vision. Maybe that is to come.



Football Memories (Robson, £8.99) is Brian Glanville's highly entertaining autobiography. The revised paperback edition includes an extra chapter on events up to the end of Euro 2004.

No other English football writer has come close to matching Glanville's workrate during a 50-year career that has produced not only groundbreaking sports journalism but also highly regarded novels and plays. The anecdotes come thick and fast, from his early working life as a reluctant articled clerk through to the present day. It's been a remarkable career, though you sense Glanville is not ready to put away the typewriter just yet.

Gavin Hamilton

The Cellerator Zero_4, by Puma

Precision Classic GK MD, by Uhlsport

F-50, from Adidas, with FusionFrame insole system

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WORLD SOCCER COMPETITION

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- Every month, starting in the December issue, we will publish the best entry in the magazine. Each monthly winner will then join a shortlist from which the overall winner will be selected.
- The winner of the grand prize will travel to the Champions League Final in Istanbul next May as a guest of *World Soccer*, watch the game as part of the *World Soccer* reporting team, and then write a report that will be published in *World Soccer*.
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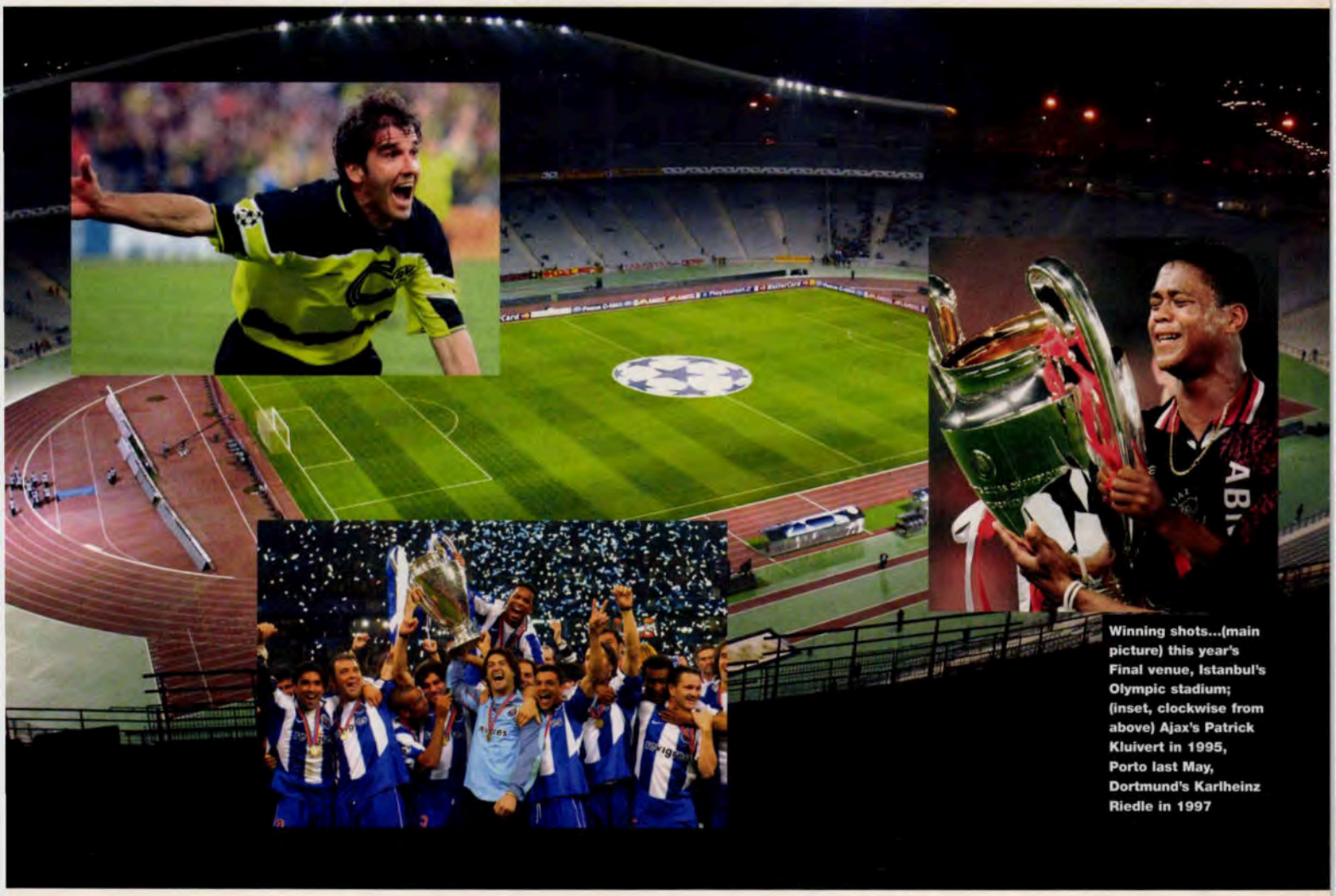


Winning shots...(main picture) this year's Final venue, Istanbul's Olympic stadium; (inset, clockwise from above) Ajax's Patrick Kluivert in 1995, Porto last May, Dortmund's Karlheinz Riedle in 1997

Game's up for Jupp

GERMANY

GERMANS HAVE A good reason for dubbing Schalke a 'Chaos Klub'. With rare exceptions, the Ruhr side's presidents and coaches do not tend to qualify for long-service awards. True to form, they were the first Bundesliga club to axe their coach this season, firing Jupp Heynckes after his team lost three of their first four games.

Heynckes, in charge since the summer of 2002, was very much the victim of player power. The authoritarian tones of the former Bayern Munich and Real Madrid boss rankled with many in the dressing-room, and the players were also unhappy with his insistence on rotating the line-up, using a three-man back line and his preference for youngsters over the old sweats.

When the entire Schalke squad called on senior management at the club for a two-hour outpouring of grievances, the game was effectively up for Jupp.

"The next day we met Jupp and tried to convince him to do certain things differently," said Schalke general manager Rudi Assauer. "Jupp, though, would not change. He's from the old school. But we are no longer dealing with players from the 60s and 70s. The gulf was too wide."

Heynckes' successor is 46-year-old ex-Stuttgart and Hannover boss Ralf Rangnick, who had been tipped in the summer to become right-hand man to new national coach Jurgen Klinsmann, only for 'Jogi' Low to get the job.

The odd couple

In some ways, Rangnick and Schalke make for an odd couple. The coach is a progressive, intellectual type, whereas Schalke traditionally put blood and thunder before tactical niceties.

Now working in an old mining region, Rangnick may soon be walking on hot coals since many believe that a squad crammed with strong personalities is simply 'uncoachable'.

A far more pleasant atmosphere is to be found at Wolfsburg, one of the surprise early-season pacesetters in the Bundesliga. A pair of 2-1 victories away to Borussia Dortmund and champions Werder Bremen have made them realise they can be a match for anyone. Belgian coach Eric Gerets has been especially inspired, reaping good results from using a wide range of formations.

Gerets claims Wolfsburg's success owes more to fighting spirit and teamwork than to fluent, creative football, and insists they are not likely to stay at the top end of the table. But qualification for Europe is a distinct possibility.

In brilliant Argentinian playmaker Andres D'Alessandro, twin strikers Diego Klimowicz and Thomas Brdaric, and Bulgarian left-sided midfielder Martin Petrov, the VW-backed club have a wealth of attacking talent. What is more, their new central defensive duo of Dutchman Kevin Hofland (ex-PSV Eindhoven) and Argentinian Fernando Quiroga (Sporting Lisbon) are arguably the most in-form pair in the country.

Also enjoying themselves are promoted Mainz from the western Rhineland, who have already beaten Hamburg and Bayer Leverkusen and drawn with Dortmund.

Those who considered Mainz certainties to go straight down are now revising their opinions, won over by their solid organisation, highly effective pressing game and willingness to commit numbers to attack.

Top marks to the club's young boss, Jurgen Klopp, who is intelligent, eloquent and has a flair for motivation – but no German coaching licence. The 37-year-old has been ordered back to school by the federation and must study part-time for up to nine months for the required badge.

Nick Bidwell

No compromise...Heynckes' 'old school' methods rankled with the Schalke squad, who eventually forced him out

Paris blues...Chelsea's John Terry scores the opening goal in his side's 3-0 Champions League win at Parc des Princes

PSG in crisis

FRANCE

VAHID HALILHODZIC IS under siege as Paris Saint-Germain lurch into a new crisis. The troubled Bosnian coach has banned the media from the training ground and, official and obligatory Champions League press conferences aside, is generally keeping his thoughts to himself.

"So many dirty and unfair things have been written about us," was Halilhodzic's biting comment before beginning his self-imposed silence.

Since their victory in the French Cup Final last May, PSG went until the end of September without a win, their 1-0 victory over Strasbourg ending a barren run of seven League games. Then there were the defeats in Europe – 3-0 at home to Chelsea, 2-0 to CSKA in Moscow.

PSG chairman Francis Graille appointed Halilhodzic 18 months ago on arriving from Lille, but the pressure on the coach is now so intense that nobody expects him to survive the next few weeks.

So how did PSG, Cup-winners and League runners-up in Halilhodzic's first season in charge, find themselves in such a desperate situation, in the relegation zone alongside Istres and Ajaccio – clubs with a turnover only a tenth the size of PSG's and with average home crowds of only 4,000?

Halilhodzic, when obliged to talk, says: "The team lack confidence. It's a mental problem. We go on to the pitch with fear, and if we concede a goal we lose our will and concentration. Everyone wants to save the situation himself and not as a team."

Parting shots

The main problem seems to stem from transfer policy. During the summer Gabriel Heinze (to Manchester United), Frederic Dehu (Marseille) and Juan Pablo Sorin (Cruzeiro) all departed with acrimony, firing parting shots at Halilhodzic, saying he was not listening to the players or showing them consideration or respect.

Yet, despite all that, they never let the club down last season. Dehu was a natural-born leader, both on the pitch and in the dressing-room – PSG's version of Roy Keane. Argentinian defender Heinze was a crowd favourite, showing fighting spirit for club and country. Heinze's compatriot Sorin was the talisman. He played more than 30 games last season and PSG did not lose a single one. Each time he was missing, they lost.

Sorin, equally at home at full-back or on the left of midfield, was on loan from Barcelona and happy to stay but Halilhodzic preferred a more attacking player, signing Monaco's French international Jerome Rothen.

Rothen, however, has failed to show the form that helped his former club to last season's Champions League Final and has since been sidelined with a groin injury.

Nantes defenders Sylvain Armand and Colombian Mario Yepes also arrived at Parc des Princes. But both are struggling to cope with the pressure at a high-profile club constantly under media scrutiny.

Graille, meanwhile, is negotiating to buy shares from TV channel Canal Plus, a major investor in the club, and thus become PSG's biggest shareholder. He cannot afford to see the club flirting with relegation, so his loyalty towards Halilhodzic is being strained.

Perhaps the crisis is best summed up by midfielder Fabrice Fiorese's departure to Marseille, PSG's bitter rivals, just before the summer transfer deadline.

He said: "I am fed up with Halilhodzic's behaviour. He doesn't respect the players. It's a jail here and even like a sect. I want to be free to join the Marseille family." This is the same "family" at whose fans Fiorese spat when taunted during a game at the Velodrome last season.

Erik Bielderman

Play-off plan causes concern

Going Dutch...Feyenoord's Salomon Kalou is keen to play for his adopted country

HOLLAND

THE FA HAS caused controversy by announcing the introduction of a new play-off system next season to decide which clubs will enter European competition. It claims the scheme will improve domestic football, but critics say it will have a detrimental effect on both players and the regular League campaign.

Under the new format, the League champions and Cup winners will qualify automatically for the Champions League and UEFA Cup respectively, as at present, but the teams finishing second to fifth in the League will go into a post-season knockout competition.

The play-off winners will go into the third qualifying round of the Champions League, while the runners-up and third-placed side will enter the UEFA Cup. The fourth-placed team will play the winners of another play-off competition, involving the clubs finishing sixth to ninth in the League, for the last UEFA Cup berth.

The FA called the play-off scheme "the rescue of Dutch football", saying it would boost finances for the clubs involved and prolong interest in the latter stages of the season. FA chairman Henk Kessler also predicted that "the quality of Dutch football will increase".

However, the coaches of the leading clubs and national team boss Marco Van Basten have expressed fears that the extra games the new format involves will cause player fatigue. Some of them also pointed out the new scheme could be detrimental to the regular League competition. "If the title is out of reach, why should we try to finish second?" asked Feyenoord coach Ruud Gullit. "Teams will give players a rest for the play-offs."

PSV Eindhoven, one of the likely participants, are against the idea because it means they can no longer plan lucrative end-of-season trips to America or the Far East.

The introduction of the new format means that the regular League season will have to finish earlier, and matches will be played on Boxing Day and New Year's Day for the first time in 30 years. This has raised concerns among government officials, who fear it will be difficult to mobilise enough police to provide adequate security at holiday matches.

On the playing front, Tunisian defender Hatem Trabelsi is back in the Ajax squad after resolving a contract dispute. And it has been revealed that the reason Ajax did not buy Roda JC's Ivorian striker Arouna Kone to replace Zlatan Ibrahimovic is because he has a heart defect. However, doctors have told Kone he can continue to play.

Another Ivorian, Feyenoord's Salomon Kalou, has said he wants to play for Holland. The 19-year-old, younger brother of Auxerre's Bonaventure Kalou, has been the season's sensation to date, with his form consigning Belgian striker Thomas Buffel to the bench.

The national team produced a spirited performance in beating the Czech Republic 2-0 in Amsterdam in their opening World Cup qualifier, Pierre Van Hooijdonk scoring both goals.

NAC's Hungarian midfielder Tamas Peto has been handed a 20-match ban, 10 of them conditional, after testing positive for the banned substance nonandrostrolon.

Klaas-Jan Droppert

Rapid progress...Ivanschitz

Viennese whirl

AUSTRIA

AUSTRIA WIEN and city rivals Rapid have set the pace in the League, sharing top spot with 21 points after 10 games, five more than defending champions Grazer AK.

"Our midfield and attack have looked great for the past couple of seasons, and now our defence has stabilised," said Rapid playmaker and national team captain Andreas Ivanschitz.

Austria president Frank Stronach is not entirely happy with the situation, however, saying: "Leading the League means nothing. Even if we win the title, it would not be enough, compared to the money we have invested. We need to be successful in Europe, too."

Stronach spent about £20 million last year in an effort to take Austria into the Champions League, but they lost to Marseille in the third qualifying round and were then ousted from the UEFA Cup by Borussia Dortmund.

This term, Austria beat Legia Warsaw in the UEFA Cup first round to reach the group stage.

Harry Miltner

BELGIUM

UEFA three all through

Although Anderlecht already appear doomed in the Champions League after losing their first two games, all three of Belgium's UEFA Cup entrants made it through to the group stage.

Standard Liege progressed against the odds having only managed a 0-0 draw at home in the first leg to Bochum of Germany. However, they then scored a late equaliser to make it 1-1 in the return and go through on away goals.

They also had to do it without Greek striker Alexandros Kaklamanos, who faces the sack and a two-year ban after testing positive for cocaine use following a League game.

Beveren also had to contend with off-field troubles but still qualified by beating Levski Sofia 2-1 on aggregate. Ivorian forward Moussa Sanogo turned up for the trip to Bulgaria for the first leg without the visa required to get him back into Belgium. In normal circumstances a new one would have taken two weeks to process but Sanogo was granted a replacement within half an hour. His value was proved when scoring in the 1-1 draw. Marco Ne headed in the only goal of the second leg just before half-time.

Club Brugge romped to a 6-1 aggregate win over French second level opponents Chateauroux. The only blemish was the knee ligament injury suffered by midfielder Timmy Simons in the 4-0 first-leg victory, ruling him out for six weeks, having missed only one of his club's previous 140 games.

Brugge were also going well in the League, with Beveren the only side to have held them in the first seven games. Croat Bosko Balaban scored four goals in the 6-1 win at FC Brussels that put Brugge four points clear of defending champions Anderlecht, who suffered a shock 2-1 defeat at Charleroi on the same day.

Nicholas Harling

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Shelbourne firm favourites

Shelbourne are odds-on to retain the championship after opening up an eight-point lead with eight rounds to play. Drogheda and Bohemians are contesting runners-up spot.

The top two plus the FAI Cup winners will qualify for the new North-South competition, in which they will face three clubs from Northern Ireland.

Former international Noel Synnott has taken charge of lowly Shamrock Rovers until the end of the season following the dismissal of Liam Buckley.

Longford Town beat Bohemians 2-1 in the League Cup Final to add to the FAI Cup they won last term.

Sean Creedon

LIECHTENSTEIN

Foreigners boost Vaduz bid

Vaduz's attempt to reach the Swiss top flight was boosted by the signing of three foreign players in the final hours of the summer transfer window. Two Finnish internationals joined from Turkish clubs – defender Jussi Nuorela (Elazigspor) and forward Antti Sumiala (Sebatspor) – while Italo-Brazilian Fernando Ferrari arrived from Spanish club Albacete.

Vaduz only narrowly missed out on promotion last season, losing to Neuchatel Xamax in a play-off, and have began well this term, winning five of their first seven games.

Graeme Crawford

Double blow for Basle

SWITZERLAND

BASLE, THE DEFENDING champions and flying high in the new campaign, crashed to earth after suffering back-to-back defeats in late September.

A 4-1 thrashing at Thun, Basle's first League loss of the season and worst for three years, allowed their opponents to leapfrog them to top spot. Three days later, they lost 1-0 at Aarau to a goal from Carlos Varela, who had been loaned out because of a surplus of attacking midfielders at Basle.

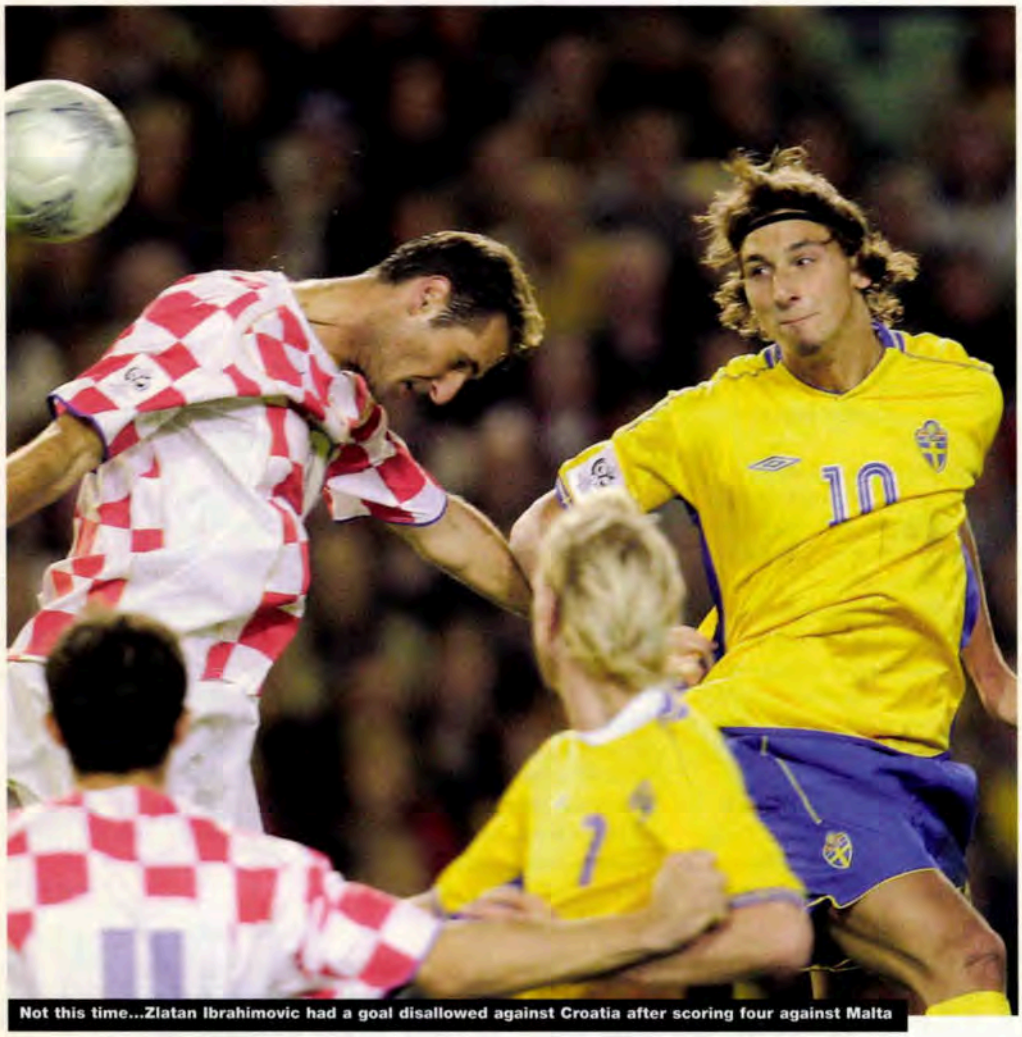
It was first time Basle had lost two League games in a row since August 2002, and the defeats led to a predictable harangue from coach Christian Gross. He demanded improved concentration from his players, particularly the club's two standard bearers and top earners – captain Murat Yakin and goalkeeper Pascal Zuberbuhler. "We have conceded 11 goals so far [in 10 games], which is far too many. Our defence must be tightened up," he said.

Zurich overcame city rivals Grasshopper 2-0 in their 198th League meeting to register their first home win in the fixture for 20 years.

David Sesa, capped 34 times by Switzerland, has returned home to play for Aarau after six years in Italy. He was most recently at Napoli, now bankrupt.

Ivar von Rulach

Jump to it...Murat Yakin (left) has been told to lead from the front



Not this time...Zlatan Ibrahimovic had a goal disallowed against Croatia after scoring four against Malta

Provincials deliver capital punishment

SWEDEN

WITH FOUR ROUNDS to play, Malmo led the championship by four points from Halmstads, with IFK Gothenburg a further two in arrears. But whichever of the three front-runners wins the title, the dominance of Stockholm clubs in recent years appears to be over.

The capital contingent have won the championship four times in the past six seasons, but none has shone this term. AIK, title winners in 1998, have been victims of mismanagement and were in the automatic relegation zone after 21 of their 26 games. Hammarby's championship ambitions faded badly after a string of poor results, putting a repeat of their 2001 triumph out of the question. And Djurgardens' revival under new coach Kjell Jonevret was short-lived. As the coach admitted, the champions for the past two seasons were outplayed during their recent 2-0 defeat at Malmo. "The result flattered us," said Jonevret. "We were never in the game. Malmo piled massive pressure on us and we were just hanging on the ropes."

Sweden's World Cup campaign took a serious dent with a 1-0 home defeat by Croatia. The hosts dominated the ill-tempered match but just could not score. Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who hit four goals in the 7-0 win over Malta four days earlier, did get the ball in the net but his effort was disallowed.

Defender Andreas Jackobsson, now with Southampton, and capped 36 times, has announced his international retirement.

Pentti Hietanen

DENMARK

Big win for Brondby

Brondby cantered to a 3-1 win at city rivals and defending champions FC Copenhagen in the Superliga's big game of the autumn to go top of the table.

Morten Skoubo scored twice in the first half and Johan Absalonsen grabbed the third before Hjalte Bo Norregaard converted a consolation penalty in stoppage time.

It was Brondby's first victory in the fixture for six years, and coach Michael Laudrup claimed it was one of his team's best performances since he took charge.

Brondby were two points clear of OB Odense and Midtjylland after nine rounds, with FC Copenhagen five points back in sixth.

Jim Holden

NORWAY

Rosenborg keep clear

Valerenga and Tromso, the toughest challengers to defending champions and leaders Rosenborg this season, drew 1-1 in late September, allowing Rosenborg to extend their advantage to four points with four games left.

At the bottom, Sogndal are already virtually certain to go down, while another threatened club, Stabaek, are now under temporary management after sacking coach Gaute Larsen. Stabaek also went out of the Cup in the semi-finals, losing 3-1 after extra-time at home to Brann. Lyn beat Lillestrom 1-0 at home in the other semi.

Start are definitely promoted, with Aalesund almost certain to take the other automatic promotion place.

After so many positive results in recent friendlies the national side took only one point from their first two World Cup qualifiers. A 2-1 defeat in Italy was respectable but they then threw away a lead in drawing 1-1 at home to Belarus.

Sigurd Odegaard

FINLAND

Three, two, one...Haka!

FC Haka are the new League champions, winning their first title since 2000 after having finished third and then second in the past two seasons.

The championship is a triumph for coach Olli Huttunen, a former Finland goalkeeper, who has spent 27 of his 44 years at the club. "When I was put in charge of the team [in 2002], there

were many who doubted my ability," says Huttunen. "Now I can proudly say I've kept FC Haka among the leading Finnish club sides."

Although it was Huttunen's first title as head coach, he also won it in 1995, his final season as a player, and was assistant to Keith Armstrong when Haka won a hat-trick of titles, ending in 2000.

Alexei Eremenko Snr has again made Finnish footballing history by scoring in the same match in which his 17-year-old son Roman also hit his first League goal, both for Jaro. A couple of seasons ago, Eremenko Snr, now 40, played in the same match for HJK Helsinki as his older son, Alexei Jnr, now an international.

Finland will be without Mikael Forssell for months after he underwent a knee operation. The Birmingham striker had already made his mark on the World Cup qualifiers with a superb goal in the 2-0 win in Armenia in September.

Pentti Hietanen

ICELAND

FH leap to title

FH, the Hafnarfjordur club whose roots lie in gymnastics, finished head and shoulders above the rest in the League to carry off the first major silverware in their 75-year history. The side gained many new friends along the way with their enterprising, attacking football.

FH finally met their match following a run of 22 games without defeat in all competitions, going out 5-1 on aggregate to Germans Alemannia Aachen in the UEFA Cup first round.

The new champions also exited the domestic Cup, beaten 1-0 by KA in the semi-finals. It gave KA some measure of revenge, having been relegated the week before after losing 2-1 at home to FH in the final League round. Keflavik won the other semi-final.

Fram incredibly avoided relegation in the last League round for the sixth year in a row. Their feat was all the more remarkable since this time they lost 6-1 at home to Keflavik. However, they stayed up because KA lost and Vikingur, the other relegation battlers, only drew at Grindavik. Valur and Throttur, relegated last year, have bounced back at the first attempt.

The national team kicked off their World Cup qualifying campaign in the worst fashion possible, losing 3-1 to Bulgaria in Reykjavik and 3-2 in Hungary.

Rab Christie

WALES

Hughes delivers bad news

Mark Hughes' decision to quit as national team manager to take over at Blackburn was a further blow after Wales' disappointing start to the World Cup qualifying campaign.

Hughes oversaw the 1-1 draw away to Azerbaijan and the 2-2 home draw with Northern Ireland.

In the League, 2000 champions Total Network Solutions dropped only two points in their first seven games to lead by three points from early pacesetters Caersws. Llanelli, now with Eddie May in charge, lost their first five games.

Mel Thomas

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ards stay alive

Ards narrowly escaped the threat of extinction after a new board took over and their outstanding debts were either paid or restructured. Manager Shane Reddish and his players have also taken massive pay cuts. Ards, founded in 1902, were forced to take drastic action in order to prove to the FA that they were in a position to complete the season.

Roy Kitson

Hat-trick hero...Ross Wallace

Celtic hit by Henrik

SCOTLAND

CHAMPIONS CELTIC HAVE started the season in typically assertive style, pushing ahead of Rangers in the League as they did last term and showing no ill effects from the loss of leading striker Henrik Larsson...at least in domestic football. The Swede returned to Parkhead with his new club, Barcelona, and scored in the visitors' 3-1 Champions League victory.

One of Larsson's replacements, Senegal forward Henri Camara, has been scoring regularly to put himself in the frame to make his current loan deal from Wolverhampton permanent.

And there has been further evidence that Celtic's youth development programme is flourishing. Striker Ross Wallace was unleashed in a League Cup tie against First Division Falkirk and took full advantage of his rare first-team opportunity by scoring a hat-trick in an 8-1 hammering.

Wallace now joins other talented youngsters such as Aiden McGeady and David Marshall in trying to establish themselves in the first-team set-up.

The national side were lacklustre in their opening World Cup qualifier, a goalless draw against Slovenia at Hampden Park.

Alan Fairley

Pijpers era ends

ESTONIA

ARNO PIJPERS' four-year reign as national coach is over. The FA decided not to extend his contract, which expires in November, and the Dutchman will also leave his other job – as coach of Flora Tallinn – at the same time.

Although no concrete reasons were given for the FA decision, certain members have hinted that Pijpers had unacceptable flaws in his character.

"Pijpers did a great job. We made a good choice in 2000," said FA president Indrek Kannik. "But four years is a long time in football."

Pijpers, who accused the FA of failing to fulfil its obligations to him, expressed his unhappiness, saying: "I was ready to continue my job. My heart belongs to Estonia. I am very, very disappointed."

Pijpers won the championship with Flora in each of the past three seasons, but in the current campaign they trailed leaders Levadia Tallinn by five points with four games to play.

Levadia's long unbeaten run, stretching back to October last year, finally came to an end when they lost 1-0 to Trans Narva in mid-September.

Andres Must

Double departure...Pijpers will also leave as coach of Flora Tallinn

Old rivalry...Michalis Kapsis battles with Fatih Tekke during the goalless World Cup qualifier against Turkey

Plug pulled on Euro party

GREECE

THE EURO 2004 party is well and truly over after the national side failed to win any of their first three games following the surprise triumph in Portugal.

A 0-0 friendly draw away to the Czech Republic in August was followed by a 2-1 defeat by Albania in Tirana in the opening round of World Cup qualifiers on September 4 and then another goalless draw at home to Turkey in the second Germany 2006 preliminary, four days later.

The Turkey game was played at Olympiakos's reconstructed Karaiskaki stadium, where 33,000 fans had gathered to see their heroes for the first time on home soil since winning the European Championship. But Otto Rehhagel's side looked a shadow of the highly-organised unit of the summer.

Defender Michalis Kapsis put the blame on a lack of match fitness, saying: "We showed that we could not play out the full 90 minutes, and this is because most of the players have not started playing in League matches [the Greek season only began on September 18]. We also had bad luck tonight."

Five PAOK Salonika fans have received 12-month suspended jail sentences for hooliganism during the UEFA Cup first round match against Dutch club AZ Alkmaar.

Lou Economopoulos

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

Dzajic quits Red Star

Red Star Belgrade are in turmoil following the resignation of president Dragan Dzajic, shortly after coach Ljupko Petrovic departed less than three months into his tenure following a 4-0 defeat at Zenit St Petersburg in the UEFA Cup first round.

Ratko Dostanic, previously assistant to Slavoljub Muslin at Red Star and most recently head coach at Slavia Sofia, replaced Petrovic but not surprisingly was unable to turn round the club's fortunes in Europe. The side lost 2-1 in the return against Zenit, after which the fans turned on Dzajic and the board. He quit the following day.

Dzajic, 58, the legendary former Yugoslavia forward, had been at Red Star 42 years as player and administrator.

Midfielder Nenad Kovacevic, 23, has been given the green light to play again for Red Star after being sidelined for nearly a year with a heart problem.

Vladimir Novak

CROATIA

No sex, no points

Former national team coach Miroslav Blazevic had an unwelcome return to football after an operation for prostate cancer as his club, Varteks Varazdin, lost 4-0 at home to champions Hajduk Split.

Blazevic had promised to throw himself into his job with even more vigour than before since his operation had "doomed [him] to a life without sex".

Dinamo Zagreb players have been assaulted in the street by their own fans following the team's poor start to the season. Forward Zoran Zekic needed hospital treatment after he was attacked.

Zdravko Reic

SLOVENIA

Olimpija fans rampage

Olimpija Ljubljana coach Milivoj Bracun was beaten up and the players forced to seek sanctuary in the dressing-room after about 100 of the club's fans went on the rampage in the closing minutes of a 4-1 home defeat by Publikum.

They took over the VIP area then stormed the club offices, demanding the resignation of general manager Miro Gavez, who agreed immediately.

The Publikum result was the final straw for the fans, Olimpija having taken only 10 points from eight games, leaving them 13 behind leaders Gorica.

Zdravko Reic

MACEDONIA

Kurcubic in at Pobeda

Champions Pobeda have appointed Petar Kurcubic as coach following the resignation of Dragan Hristovski. Kurcubic was most recently in charge of Serb side FK Novi Sad.

Hristovski stood down after Pobeda made a poor start to the season, exiting the Cup, underperforming in the League and going out of the Champions League in the first qualifying round to Armenia's Pyunik Yerevan.

Sloga Jugomagnat, the financially troubled Cup-holders, also have a new boss, Blagoja Kitanovski, after taking only three points from six games under Adnan Zekiri.

Michel Stojmanovski

ISRAEL

Yossi turns the tide

The national team made an impressive start to their World Cup qualifying campaign, holding France to a goalless draw in Saint-Denis. But with the hard part of the September double-header done, they then had to come from behind to win 2-1 against Cyprus in Tel Aviv four days later. Yossi Benayoun equalised after a brilliant dribble, with Walid Badir heading the winner.

Record League scorer Alon Mizrahi has left Hapoel Be'er Sheva to rejoin Bnei Yehuda, where he began his career.

Derek Fattal

CYPRUS

The English connection

Three foreign stars, all with English connections, have signed for Cypriot clubs. Former England Under-21 midfielder Chris Bart-Williams has joined champions APOEL after being released by Ipswich. The club also signed Italian striker Michele Di Piedi, formerly with Sheffield Wednesday, while Georgian playmaker Georgi Kinkladze, whose English clubs included Manchester City and Derby, is now with Anorthosis.

Soulis Theodosiou

MALTA

Heese feels the heat

National coach Horst Heese is under pressure after a 7-0 trouncing at home by Sweden in the opening World Cup qualifier. Heese made a surprising change beforehand when dropping regular first-choice goalkeeper Mario Muscat.

Domenico Aquilina

Writing on wall for Del Bosque

TURKEY

VICENTE DEL BOSQUE'S arrival at Besiktas in the summer gave rise to high hopes. But after his charges lost 3-2 at home to promoted Ankaraspor at the end of September, it seemed only a matter of time before the former Real Madrid boss was numbering the Istanbul outfit among his ex clubs.

The result meant that Besiktas, the 2003 champions and one of the country's Big Three, had won just one of their first seven League games, and on the Monday after the Ankaraspor defeat, Turkish newspapers already had Del Bosque on his way out. They reported on a series of lengthy meetings of the Besiktas board, said the Spaniard had already offered his resignation and had begun assessing the field of possible successors.

In reality, Besiktas appeared to be seeking an agreement that would allow them to part company with Del Bosque without having to hand over his entire hefty severance pay.

But there was little debate about the need for a change. The fans' chant of "resign" shook the stands against Ankaraspor, while the players blamed Del Bosque's tactics and team selection for their bad form. One of the main complaints was that Norwegian John Carew lacked support up front, while players such as Ahmed Hassan, Daniel Pancu and Tumer Metin were unfairly consigned to the bench.

In turn, Del Bosque privately complained about the unprofessional behaviour of the players, who worked hard in training but, once selected, sat back and failed to make an effort. "Something has gone really wrong," he was quoted as saying. "But I really don't know what it is."

Opponents of chairman Yildirim Demiroren called for the board's resignation, blaming them not just for the inappropriate appointment of Del Bosque but also for some poor signings.

All this was music to the ears of Istanbul rivals Fenerbahce, who came from behind to snatch the title from Besiktas last season. Sharing the lead with perennial bridesmaids Trabzonspor after seven games this term, Fener were already 13 points ahead of Besiktas and will be jubilant at the disintegration of the club they feared would be their strongest challengers.

Suna Erdem

On thin ice...Vicente Del Bosque

Blaz's boys hold Spain

Pressure...Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas fends off a Bosnian attack

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

THE NATIONAL TEAM impressed in holding Spain to a 1-1 draw in Zenica in their first World Cup qualifier. However, the game was marred by hooliganism, with Spain midfielder Juan Carlos Valeron hit on the head by an object thrown from the crowd.

The result was a boost for national coach Blaz Sliskovic, who has come under scrutiny for recently agreeing to combine his Bosnia-Herzegovina duties with taking the coaching reins at Croatian champions Hajduk Split.

Mostar side Zrinjski were the only unbeaten club after seven League rounds, but were only second, a point behind Zeljeznicar.

Zdravko Reic

Nedved retires hurt

CZECH REPUBLIC

PAVEL NEDVED'S DECISION to retire from the national team has sent shockwaves through Czech football and came on top of the disappointing 2-0 defeat by Holland in a key Group 1 World Cup qualifier.

The ongoing saga of Nedved's knee, injured during the Euro 2004 semi-final against Greece, reached a dramatic climax on September 24 when the national team captain announced his decision. But although injury problems are the principle reason for Nedved's departure from the international scene, the Juventus star's always-awkward relationship with the Czech press has also been a factor.

Citing his recurring knee problem, Nedved withdrew from the squad to play Holland on September 8, only to appear for the full 90 minutes for Juventus in a friendly four days before the game in Amsterdam. Without the midfielder, the Czechs lost.

While national coach Karel Bruckner publicly accepted Nedved's decision to withdraw, the move caused anger in some sections of the Czech media. Nedved subsequently issued a statement announcing that he would play only for Juventus until he was fully fit.

Further negative media reaction, however, seems to have pushed Nedved towards a definitive retirement from the international game, though subsequent statements have suggested that the current European Footballer of the Year might reverse his decision if he fully recovers.

In the League, relegated Viktoria Zizkov became the second team to have 12 points deducted by the FA for their part in a bribery scandal. Also, the second level club's sporting director, Ivan Hornik, has been banned from football for two years and fined £11,000. Earlier, Slovacko, formerly known as Synot, had 12 points docked for their involvement.

Sam Beckwith

Calling it quits...Pavel Nedved has ended his international career

UKRAINE

Blokhin & co win at last

The national team recorded their first win for 15 months when beating Kazakhstan 2-1 away in their second World Cup qualifier. Ukraine, clearly boosted by their 1-1 draw away to Denmark four days earlier, dominated the game in Almaty, but only a fine late goal by Ruslan Rotan secured the win.

The victory, a first for coach Oleh Blokhin, was achieved despite the absence – on the field at least – of star player Andrii Shevchenko. At first, the Milan striker had proclaimed himself injured, despite having played the full 90 minutes against Denmark. Bizarrely, however, Shevchenko then travelled to Kazakhstan by private jet, and Blokhin and the rest of the squad only learnt of his presence minutes before kick-off when he was seen sitting in a VIP area.

The striker then made a rapid recovery from injury, appearing for Milan three days after the Kazakhstan tie in the first game of the Serie A season.

Shakhtar have continued to sweep all before them in the League, extending their winning run to nine games from the start of the season with a 1-0 victory away to Obolon.

Anatoliy Zayayev has resigned as coach of Tavriya, saying he preferred to take a managerial role at the club. He named the inexperienced Oleh Fedorchuk as his successor.

Olexiy Mikhailichenko, fired by Kyiv Dynamo in August, has taken charge of the national Under-21 team after Pavlo Yakovenko left for Russian side FC Khimki; Chornomorets have signed ex-Dynamo skipper Vladislav Vaschuk, who failed to find a club in Germany; and defender Serhii Popov has joined Metalurh Zaporizhya after being released by Shakhtar.

Oleg Zadernovsky

ROMANIA

Anghel praises foreign legion

National Bucharest's multinational recruitment policy is paying dividends, with their eighth round 1-0 win away to Arges keeping them four points clear at the top of the table.

The squad includes four Australians, a Nigerian and a Bosnian, but it is the quality rather than the quantity of the foreigners that is impressing observers.

"The players' good attitude and determination to play well is helping Romanian soccer," said national coach Anghel Iordanescu. "Some of them are good enough to convince domestic players to re-think their own attitude towards training and the way they conduct their private life."

Iordanescu has already called National's Nigerian, Abiodun Agunbiade, the best foreigner in the domestic League, and said: "The Romanian national team needs such a player."

Encouraged by his words, Agunbiade has already enquired about obtaining Romanian citizenship.

National's Australian central defender, Jonathan McKain, is another to have made his mark this term, attracting the interest of Romania's three biggest clubs – Steaua, Dinamo and Rapid.

Radu Timofte

SLOVAKIA

Vittek the star

Nurnberg striker Robert Vittek cemented his status as one of the country's best prospects for years with two top-class displays in Slovakia's September World Cup qualifiers.

The 22-year-old scored late on away to Russia to secure a 1-1 draw, then followed up with a hat-trick in the 7-0 hammering of Liechtenstein in Bratislava four days later.

Those results, coupled with the 3-1 victory over Luxembourg in August – in which Vittek also scored – put Slovakia top of Group 3, making it one of their best ever starts to a qualifying campaign for a major tournament.

In the League, Dubnica were the only unbeaten side after nine rounds and led by two points from MSK Zilina and Ruzomberok. Inter Bratislava, the 2000 and 2001 champions, look relegation fodder after taking just one point from their first nine matches.

Pavol Stracansky

HUNGARY

Mixed start for Magyars

The national team got off to a mixed start in their World Cup qualifying campaign, crumbling 3-0 away to Croatia in Zagreb following the early dismissal of key player Szabolcs Huszti, but then overcoming a stubborn Iceland 3-2 in Budapest. The Magyars finally won through in a see-saw game in which the lead changed hands twice.

Defending champions Ferencvaros were still top of the League after eight games having bounced back from a surprise 2-1 defeat away to newly-promoted Kaposvar. 'Fradi' beat Nyiregyhaza 5-0, Vasas 1-0 and Matav 4-1 in their next three games to lead Debrecen by three points.

Peterjon Cresswell

BULGARIA

CSKA – Sofia, so good

CSKA Sofia have made a spectacular start to the League campaign, winning all their first eight games and scoring 30 goals in the process.

Midfielder Hristo Yanev is the star player to date, having hit eight goals, as well as the third for Bulgaria in their 3-1 win away to Iceland in the opening World Cup qualifier.

CSKA's city rivals Levski also began impressively, winning their first six games before being held to a 2-2 draw away to defending champions Lokomotiv Plovdiv.

Across Sofia, Atanas Dzhambazki has retaken the coaching reins at Slavia following the departure of Ratko Dostanic for Red Star Belgrade. Dzhambazki had agreed to step down to an assistant role when Dostanic was originally appointed last December.

Michael Bowesfield

Glowacki's England nightmare

Mistakes...Arkadiusz Glowacki

POLAND

DEFENDER ARKADIUSZ GLOWACKI called Poland's 2-1 World Cup qualifying defeat by England in Chorzow "the worst game of my career" after his mistakes led to both the visitors' goals. Glowacki allowed striker Jermain Defoe to get past him to open the scoring for England in the 37th minute and then, after Maciej Zurawski had equalised, turned the ball into his own net 13 minutes into the second half.

Zurawski had also scored for Poland four days earlier away to Northern Ireland, with his side running out easy 3-0 winners. Piotr Wlodarczyk and Jacek Krzynowek got the other goals, both from counter-attacks.

In the League, defending champions Wisla Krakow extended their lead at the top to four points after demolishing Zaglebie Lubin 7-1 away. That took Wisla's overall goal tally to 29 in just seven games, with Tomasz Frankowski League top scorer on 12. His great form prompted a recall to the national squad after a four-year absence.

The FA has introduced a group stage, similar to that used in the Champions League, for the national Cup competition. The top two from the eight groups of four qualify for the knockout stages.

International striker Grzegorz Rasiak has joined Derby in England on a one-year contract after his former club, Siena, did not register him. This was despite the 25-year-old signing for the Serie A side in July in a three-year deal.

Dariusz Kurowski

The real deal...Vagner Love

Love blossoms in Moscow

RUSSIA

CSKA MOSCOW'S new Brazilian forward Vagner Love has been quick to justify the club's record outlay of £5.7million over the summer, scoring in both legs of the Champions League third qualifying round tie against Rangers to help send his team into the lucrative group stage and keeping CSKA in the hunt for the domestic League title.

The 20-year-old, who arrived from Palmeiras, has shown excellent dribbling skills and a powerful shot, earning him the accolade of being 'the first real Brazilian' in Russian football, with those compatriots who came before him often dismissed as mere 'beach players'.

By contrast with Love, the star striker in the First Division this season has been Andrei Fedkov, a 33-year-old former Russian international. He hit 31 goals in the first 32 League games for runaway champions Terek Grozny and may well be named among the country's Most Valuable Players at the year's end even though usually only top division players are considered for the award.

In the top flight CSKA trailed leaders Zenit St Petersburg by two points with six rounds remaining.

Victor Gusev

Defending the colours...but River Plate are said to receive lenient treatment from referees

Refs back favouritism claims

ARGENTINA

ARGENTINIAN FANS COMPLAIN increasingly that referees are favouring the two biggest clubs, River Plate and Boca Juniors, who are again in the top two championship places.

Their claims are backed by several referees who have commented on the issue in recent weeks. Christian Villareal was among a group of referees suddenly dispensed with by the FA a year ago, apparently as a result of internal politics. He says that while he and his colleagues were never told to favour River Plate and Boca Juniors in so many words, they were advised not to make mistakes against those clubs, and also Arsenal and Lanus, the clubs of FA president Julio Grondona and referees' committee president Jorge Romo respectively.

Villareal says he never rebelled. "You cannot say anything when you are on the inside, especially if you want to get on as a referee," he says. "Javier Castrilli [a leading referee of the 1990s] did speak out against the system, such as hand-picking referees for certain matches, and was forced to leave."

Luis Oliveto, who resigned in 1997, said recently: "I left because I thought there was a lot of filth in refereeing. If you make a mistake in a big club's favour, you are sure to referee them again. But if the mistakes are against them, you are suspended for a few weeks."

The suspensions are rarely made official, however. All that happens is that the referee is just not given matches for a time.

The main problem, according to Oliveto, is that the referees' committee is not independent, but under the FA, which means under the clubs. In 1996, he and six other officials presented a project to make the referees' committee independent of the FA and transfer it to the government's sports department. But the scheme never saw the light of day.

"Here, if you go against the powers that be, you are dead," says Oliveto. "And as things are, if a club does not want a referee to control their matches, he is not designated for their matches any more. The head of the referees' committee [Romo] is an FA employee and as such must follow orders."

If River and Boca are to stay at the top of the opening championship table they may well need some refereeing in their favour. Ruben Lopez, River's physical training coach, has said that at some stage his team will have to pay for their six-match,18-day tour to three countries just before the start of the championship instead of making proper preparations.

Boca are in the same boat, as they made a similar tour. It seemed as if it had indeed caught up with them after they lost to Peru's Cienciano in the recent Recopa match (2003 Libertadores Cup winners v 2003 Sudamericana Cup winners), a League derby against Independiente, and a Sudamericana Cup tie (admittedly played with reserves) against San Lorenzo in quick succession. A 6-0 thrashing of Velez Sarsfield suggested those defeats were just a blip, but then they went down 1-0 to Rosario Central's young side to trail River Plate by two points.

The truth is that when Carlos Tevez is not prominent or is marked out of the game, Boca fail. Tevez says: "The championship is nice, hard-fought, but really I don't like the way Boca are playing...sometimes we take the field half asleep."

River coach Leonardo Astrada has also expressed dissatisfaction, saying: "Up to now we have obtained the best results, but we are not the team playing the best soccer and are not satisfied with just being top."

At least they are showing some consistency, unlike Racing Club. After signing 16 players for the new season, the team surprisingly gelled immediately and won their first three matches – then lost their next five.

FIFA, surprisingly, have twice given Newell's Old Boys temporary permission to play Ariel Ortega, despite Fenerbahce having still not received the £2.1million agreed for his transfer. There is little doubt that Newell's have the money since they recently sold Mauro Rosales to Ajax for £2.4m, while president Eduardo Lopez claims repeatedly the money is about to be paid.

Eric Weil

All in the mind for Cienciano

CIENCIANO, THE PERUVIAN team who beat River Plate to win last year's Sudamericana Cup, continued their surprising run of success in continental competition by beating Argentina's other big club, Boca Juniors, to take the Recopa trophy.

The club from Cusco in the Andes won 4-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the play-off between the Libertadores Cup holders (this was the 2003 Recopa, though played in September this year) and the winners of the continent's second biggest club competition.

Credit for Cienciano's success is being attributed to a group of parapsychologists, originally engaged ahead of the Sudamericana Cup Final in the hope they could counteract Peruvian clubs' notorious inferiority complex against teams from more powerful countries. Given the success against River, the parapsychologists were brought in again before the Recopa.

One exercise involved each player breaking a wooden panel with his fist while shouting "Boca". All the players succeeded. Another – though vetoed by coach Freddy Ternero – was to walk barefoot on hot coals. But Ternero himself performed it, without getting burnt, just to show his team they could do anything if they set their minds to it.

Eric Weil

Recopa cheer...keeper Oscar Ibanez with Peru president Alejandro Toledo

Blanco fires up Veracruz

MEXICO

Silencing the critics...Cuauhtemoc Blanco

PUEBLA AND VERACRUZ, two teams fighting recently to avoid relegation, had the best points totals after seven rounds of the opening championship as they enjoyed a resurgence after years of mismanagement.

Much of the credit for Veracruz's success can be attributed to veteran playmaker Cuauhtemoc Blanco, a recent acquisition from America. At his previous club, Blanco was a controversial figure, appearing more often in scandal sheets and on TV gossip shows than up against rival defenders. But he is showing great maturity on the field at Veracruz, and his form would justify a national team recall.

Blanco's former club sacked Argentinian coach Oscar Ruggeri after just six games in charge, during which America took only seven points. The new man is former assistant Mario Carrillo, although his debut game in charge was a 4-1 defeat at Necaxa.

Defending champions Pumas UNAM have been doing even worse than America, with six points from seven games and having lost all four home matches. Coach Hugo Sanchez has hardly helped matters by openly criticising the media, referees and the federation.

Carlos Ramirez

ROUND-UP

CHILE

● Colo Colo, the country's most popular club, have been forced to sell part of their office premises to help pay off vast debts. The Santiago club, in administration since being declared bankrupt in 2001, raised £440,000 but are still believed to be more than £20 million in the red.

Another bankrupt side, Palestino, have been taken over by a consortium from Santiago's Arab community, which the club represent.

COLOMBIA

● Leading title winners Millonarios were bottom of the closing championship after 12 rounds and have debts of around £2m. Recently, about 200 fans took over Millonarios' offices to demand a say in the running of the club.

Tolima finally lost their unbeaten run in the closing championship, going down 2-0 away to Nacional in the 10th round and then losing again, 1-0 at home to Pereira. However, they still led by a point from America.

ECUADOR

● Barcelona clinched the closing championship with a game to spare despite Argentinian coach Jorge Marchetta resigning after only a few games in charge citing personal reasons. Macara and Espoli were relegated.

BOLIVIA

● Bolivar were among the eight teams to qualify for the closing championship play-offs but their players once again refused to train because some are owed up to three months' pay. Oriente Petrolero fans, meanwhile, celebrated their team's progress to the last eight, after victory over Santa Cruz, by storming the field and stripping the players naked. The other qualifiers are Real Potosi, San Jose, The Strongest, Blooming, Union Central and Jorge Wilstermann.

PARAGUAY

● Cerro Porteno beat Olimpia 3-1 in the Asuncion derby to go top of the closing championship. However, they were overtaken by Libertad after losing to them 1-0.

PERU

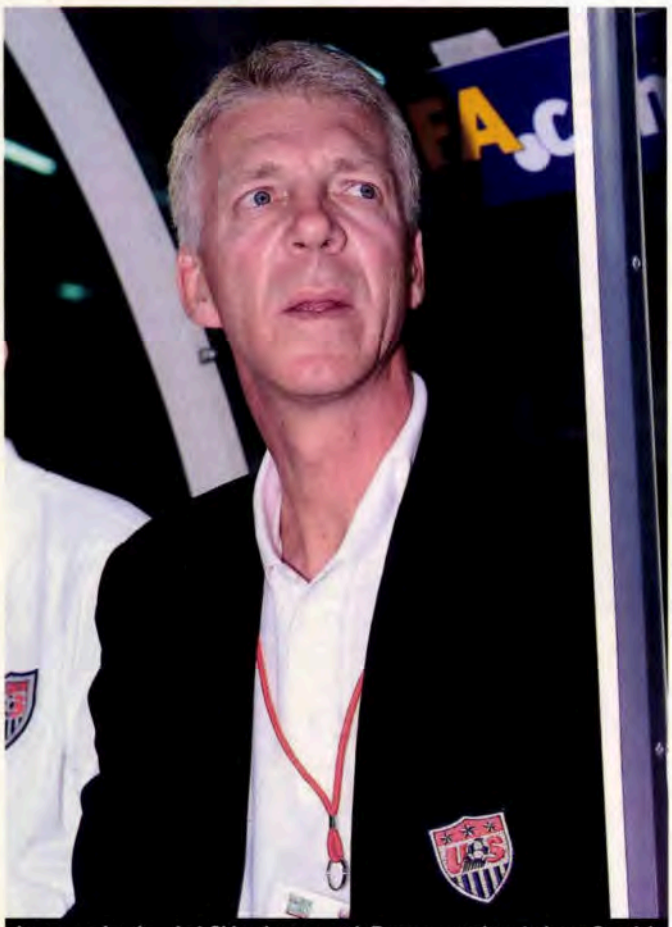
● Unbeaten Sporting Cristal came back from 3-1 down to win 4-3 in the Lima derby against Alianza and go top of the closing championship after five games.

URUGUAY

● Bella Vista players have refused to train after Pablo Hernandez and Miguel Mesones were dropped from the team because of their union activities. Hernandez is treasurer of the national players' union, which recently mounted a strike over unpaid wages, while Mesones is the team's union delegate. Bella Vista are next to bottom in the top division's relegation pool and in danger of going down. Nacional led the opening championship on goal difference from Defensor Sporting after five games.

Eric Weil

New 'Hispanic' club go Dutch


Language barrier...but Chivas' new coach Rongen promises to learn Spanish

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA IS WHERE it's all happening in MLS. The excitement started in August when Los Angeles Galaxy shocked everyone by firing coach Sigi Schmid in mid-season. His replacement, former national team coach Steve Sampson, has not been a runaway success. When he took over, Galaxy were leading the Western Conference but Sampson's first six games in charge resulted in one win, three draws and two defeats and the team slipped down to second place.

Sampson could count himself lucky that his stumbling start was overshadowed by a much more exciting slice of news happening right on his doorstep. Right in his own stadium, in fact, where Mexican club Chivas announced the name and the coach for the new MLS club that they are backing.

Club Deportivo Chivas-USA will begin playing next year and share the new Home Depot stadium with Galaxy. And despite all the talk about how relentlessly Mexican the new club would be, their first coach will be 47-year-old Thomas Rongen, a Dutchman who has played and coached in the USA since 1979.

Rongen's appointment was certainly a surprise, not least because he cheerfully admitted that he doesn't speak Spanish. "Not important," insisted Chivas owner Jorge Vergara. "He speaks soccer."

But Rongen, after mispronouncing the Chivas president's name, revealed that he had demanded a clause in his contract to the effect that he would quickly learn Spanish. "And I will," he affirmed.

More problematic than the language, though, would appear to be Rongen's vision of soccer. He has coached three different teams in MLS – winning the title in 1999 with DC United – but has never been noticeably a champion of Hispanics.

Since 2001 he has been in charge of the United States' Under-20 team. In that job, he had the entire nation's youngsters to choose from, yet the team that travelled to the United Arab Emirates for the World Youth Cup last year did not include a single Hispanic player.

No doubt Rongen's assistant, former Chivas goalkeeper Javier Ledesma, will make sure that the club's roster of players conforms to Vergara's desire for a predominantly Mexican-style of play.

Paul Gardner

Canucks look cooked

CANADA

THE NATIONAL TEAM made a miserable start in their World Cup second stage qualifying group, taking just one point from their first three games to virtually rule out any chance of them even reaching the final preliminary pool.

The Canucks lost 2-0 at home to Guatemala in their first game, held Honduras to a 1-1 draw, again on home soil, then lost 1-0 in Costa Rica.

Senior players wasted no time in hitting out at the Canadian Soccer Association, claiming that its disorganisation contributed to the poor results.

"They should take their finger out of their ass and actually do something for the players," said striker Tomasz Radzinski after claiming that some of his overseas-based team-mates were asked to fly to Canada in economy class just 24 hours before the Guatemala game.

The Fulham forward missed that match, and the CSA managed to fly him first-class for the next two games. Canada did fare better in these but not well enough to win.

Another veteran, central defender Jason De Vos, also missed the opening game after being sent back to his club Ipswich with an apparent hairline fracture of a fibula. Surprisingly enough, he played the full 90 minutes of Ipswich's League victory over Cardiff a few days later.

"I came back and found there was no fracture," said De Vos. "I'm very annoyed with the medical staff in Canada. I could have played for my country. We lost and it's a big blow to our World Cup hopes."

With two of their three remaining games on hostile Central American territory, the Canucks look cooked. Certainly, the majority of their fans have already kissed Germany goodbye.

Philippe Germain

Seething...Radzinski hit out at his country's lack of organisation

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OBITUARIES

Togo memories...Goeller

GOTTLIEB GOELLER, who coached at four different African Nations Cup finals, has died aged 66 in Basle, Switzerland. The German, originally from Nuremburg, arrived in Togo in 1970 as national coach and took the country to the 1972 Nations Cup in Cameroon. He was also at the head of the Ivory Coast team at the 1984 finals. Goeller had two further spells with Togo, from 1994 to late 1996, and again in 1997, taking them to the 1998 finals in Burkina Faso. But at the 2000 finals in Ghana he quit after one game.

SOUMAH SORIBA, who captained Hafia Conakry to the African Champions Cup title in 1977, has died aged 57. Nicknamed 'Edente', the libero was also national team captain of the Guinea side who were runners-up at the 1976 African Nations Cup finals in Ethiopia.

MAMADE WADE, the former Senegal national coach and CAF executive committee member, has died in Dakar after a long illness. He was an eccentric but popular figure on the African football circuit.

In flight...Esperance's Mohamed Guizany (stripes) battles with Aubin Takutchie during the 2-0 win over SuperSport United

Fullone ousted on a whim

ARGENTINIAN COACH Luis Oscar Fullone, twice a winner of the African Champions League, was fired by Esperance of Tunisia after their surprise 3-0 defeat away to USM Alger in this year's tournament.

Despite the defeat, Fullone's departure was a major shock because Esperance had won their first three games and were almost certain to finish in the top two of their group, thereby qualifying for the semi-finals. They did in fact go on to secure their berth, and finish top of Group B, when beating South Africa's SuperSport United 2-0 in the fifth round of matches.

Fullone, who won the Champions League in 1998 with Ivorian side ASEC Abidjan and a year later with Raja Casablanca of Morocco, had been at Esperance for nine months. As well as steering them towards the last four in the Champions League he had also overseen their seventh successive domestic League triumph in May.

However, club president Slim Chiboub is notorious for sacking coaches on a whim, with Fullone just the latest in a long line of victims. With Esperance's resources, the prevailing attitude seems to be that coaches are mercenaries for hire and are treated as such, easily replaceable from a large pool of candidates happy to take a quick pay day in the sunshine of north Africa.

The win for USM Alger, whose Senegalese import Mamadou Diallo has been the find of the tournament, put them back in the hunt for a semi-final place. They then drew 1-1 at home to Senegal's Jeanne d'Arc, their rivals for

the runners-up berth, meaning the group placings would not be decided until the final day.

SuperSport, who took just one point from their first five matches, found their debut at this level of competition a lot tougher than anticipated.

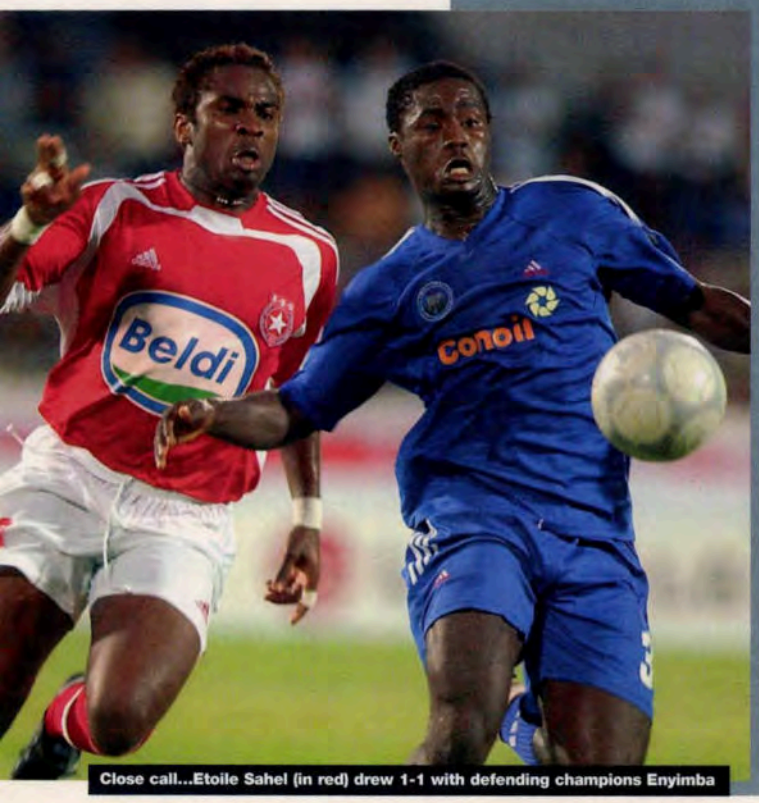
Etoile Sahel won Group A, raising the prospect of an all-Tunisian Final in what is the first year that more than one entrant per country has been allowed in the Champions League.

Defending champions Enyimba of Nigeria have suffered some rare stutters at home, only drawing 1-1 with Etoile and then losing 1-0 to Africa Sports of Ivory Coast. Those results allowed Bakili Bullets back into the chase for runners-up spot, with the Malawian side due to meet Enyimba on the final day to decide who will finish second.

The first African Confederation Cup, now in its group stage, recently signed a television and marketing partner in the form of the Saudi-owned Arab satellite channel ART. However, some of the matches, notably those being played in Cameroon, have not been broadcast because the local TV authorities have not turned up with the right equipment – hardly the way to build sponsor confidence in your product.

Hearts of Oak of Ghana and compatriots Asante Kotoko seem good bets to make it through to the Final.

Mark Gleeson



Close call...Etoile Sahel (in red) drew 1-1 with defending champions Enyimba

ROUND-UP

WEST AFRICA

● Mamadou Keita has returned for his second spell as coach of MALI, replacing former French international Alain Moizan. Keita coached Mali to the semi-finals of the African Nations Cup in Tunisia 10 years ago and was also in charge of the country's Under-20 side which finished third at the World Youth Cup in Nigeria in 1999. Moizan was fired after Mali took only two points from their first four World Cup qualifiers. Stade Malien beat USFAS 2-1 in the League Cup Final.

● Frenchman Herve Revelli has replaced veteran Ghanaian Cecil Jones Attuquayefio as coach of BENIN.

● Sal-Rei won their first championship in the CAPE VERDE ISLANDS after beating Academic Praia 3-2 on aggregate in the Final. They are only the second side from the tiny island of Boa Vista in the archipelago to win the League. Sal-Rei striker Ravs finished top scorer with 11 goals, while his midfield team-mate Romi was named Player of the Season.

● CO Bouafle won their first trophy when beating Stade Abidjan 2-1 in the IVORIAN Cup Final. Ingrid Digba Zah scored both Bouafle's goals.

Back in the old routine...Mamadou Keita

● Dyto Lome won the championship in TOGO, with Maranatha runners-up.

● In GUINEA-BISSAU, Alfredo Cande has retaken the coaching reins at Sporting Bissau as they prepare for next year's African Champions League.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

● Former Zimbabwe coach Sunday Marimo has lost the chance to coach newly-promoted SOUTH AFRICAN side Umtata Bush Bucks after claiming he could not travel because he had lost his passport. Former Nigeria coach Clemens Westerhof has now taken the reins instead.

● Portuguese coach Jose Alberto Torres has left ANGOLAN club Progresso Sambizanga complaining that the club's administration is poor. Progresso also lost out in the country's first League Cup competition, going down 1-0 to InterClube in the Final. Andre Mateus scored the goal.

● John Kaputa has quit as one of the three coaches in charge of MALAWI.

CENTRAL AFRICA

● Muni Sport won the CONGO Cup 4-3 on penalties after a goalless draw with V Club of Pointe Noire.

EAST AFRICA

● Swede Roger Palmgren has been appointed as RWANDA's new coach, replacing Serb Ratomir Dujkovic.

● UGANDA captain David Obua has been suspended by FIFA for attacking a referee and tearing up his red card after being sent off in Mauritius earlier this year

NORTH AFRICA

● Ali Fergani has taken charge of ALGERIA for the third time after Belgian Robert Waseige was sacked following the shock 3-0 home defeat by Gabon in the World Cup qualifiers.

● Mohamed Al-Khemisi has replaced Croat Ilija Loncarevic as coach of LIBYA.

● Frenchman Jackie Bonnevary is the new coach of MOROCCO'S Wydad Casablanca, and Swiss Charles Rossely has taken over at Maghreb Fes.

Mark Gleeson

Path blocked...Al Ain's Molino Alejandro can't find a way through the Chonbuk defence

Al Ain lose Asian crown

HOLDERS AL AIN crashed out of this year's Asian Champions League at the quarter-finals stage, losing 5-1 on aggregate to South Korean FA Cup winners Chonbuk Motors. Chonbuk, who qualified for the knockout stages by finishing ahead of former Asian champions Jubilo Iwata in the group phase, beat Al Ain 1-0 in the United Arab Emirates and then 4-1 in the return.

Al Ain had qualified automatically for the last eight as defending champions, but the team have been struggling since the departure to Qatar of Bruno Metsu. The ex-Senegal coach steered the club to last year's continental success and two domestic titles.

Chonbuk's triumph was part of a fantastic week for Korean sides – and a terrible one for those from the Emirates. Songnam Ilhwa, Asian champions in 1995, also reached the last four by beating UAE opposition, demolishing Sharjah 11-2 on aggregate. Leading 6-0 from the leg in Korea, Songnam went on the rampage again in the Emirates, with Denis Laktionov, an Asian Club Championship winner with Suwon Bluewings in 2001, one of those getting on the scoresheet in both legs.

Songnam now meet Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor, who completed the quarter-finals rout of UAE sides by beating Al Wahda 5-1 on aggregate. Chonbuk's semi-final opponents are Saudi Arabian champions Al Ittihad, who beat China's Dalian Shide 2-1.

The three defeats left Emirates officials scratching their heads in disbelief. "The dates of the matches didn't suit our teams in the UAE as they hadn't played any competitive games since May," said Sharjah coach Yousuf Al-Zwawi. "The teams were also affected by the time difference between East Asia and the UAE."

Michael Church

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Saudis sail through

Saudi Arabia continued their recovery from a disappointing Asian Cup by becoming the first team to book a place in the second stage of Asia's World Cup qualifying tournament. The Saudis secured top spot in Group 8 with a 1-0 win over closest challengers Turkmenistan in Ashgabat, their fourth victory out of four. With two games left, Saudi Arabia led Turkmenistan by six points and, since head-to-head record is used to separate sides level on points, their two wins over the Turkmens meant they were sure to progress regardless of what happened in the remaining games.

Only the group winners qualify for the second stage.

Striker Yasser Al-Qahtani scored the only goal of the game in the Turkmen capital, and the hosts' hopes were dashed completely when Nazar Bayramov was sent off late on.

Coach Nasser Al-Johar, who took the Saudis to the last World Cup before being fired following a dreadful showing in the finals, took the plaudits having returned to the team's helm. He succeeded Dutchman Gerard Van der Lem, who was sacked after Saudi's Asian Cup debacle in China, when the three-time Asian champions failed to reach the knockout phase for the first time.

Michael Church

Reds suffer injury blow

JAPAN

URAWA REDS CONTINUED their high-scoring start to the J.League's Second Stage, hitting 23 goals in their first seven games to lead the table by four points from JEF United Ichihara.

However, Guido Buchwald's side suffered a major blow when Olympic team midfielder Koji Yamase was ruled out for six months by a knee injury. Yamase has been a key to Reds' speedy counter-attacking style. Another central midfielder, Makoto Hasebe, is also out after fracturing a toe.

Jubilo Iwata, the First Stage runners-up, sacked coach Takashi Kuwahara after the side took only one point from their first four games. The end came for Kuwahara, who led Jubilo to the League title in 1997 and 1999, after a 3-0 loss to First Stage champions Yokohama F Marinos. His temporary replacement is Masakazu Suzuki, who also won the League with Jubilo, in 2002. But he had to wait until his third game in charge for Jubilo to record their first win of the stage.

Vissel Kobe are also feeling the heat after taking just five points from seven games. They began the season with high hopes after investing in Turkey striker Ilhan Mansiz and appointing ex-Strasbourg coach Ivan Hasek. However, Ilhan has now been ditched having suffered injury problems throughout the First Stage, and the Czech Hasek has also been dispensed with.

Patrick Mboma, the 2000 African Player of the Year, is a new arrival at Vissel, from Tokyo Verdy 1969. Other big names on the team include former Czech international Pavel Horvath and Japan's most celebrated striker of all time, Kazu Miura, now 36.

Kawasaki Frontale have sealed their return to the top flight with a record eight games to spare, having missed out on promotion on the final day of last season.

Mike Plastow & Yumiko Nagae

Big loss...Koji Yamase is out for six months

ASIAN ROUND-UP

● CHINESE side Beijing Hyundai are facing heavy punishment from their FA after the team stormed off the pitch during a game against Shenyang in protest at a penalty decision being given against them.

The walkout followed an already eventful match during which Beijing had gone behind and had a man sent off before equalising from a penalty of their own with 16 minutes remaining.

They now face having the game awarded 3-0 against them as part of their punishment.

Suspended...UAE's Subait Khater (left)

● Former German international Siegfried Held has replaced Chatchai Paholpat as coach of THAILAND. Held had been working as the Thai FA's technical adviser and is the fourth coach to take charge of the national team in the past 12 months. Chatchai quit after the team lost 4-1 to North Korea in a September World Cup qualifier.

● Bulgarian Ivan Kolev, recently sacked by Indonesia, has now taken the reins with MYANMAR.

● League champions Tampines Rovers completed the Double in SINGAPORE, defeating Home United 4-1 after extra-time in the Cup Final. Home's veteran Thai midfielder Surachai Jaturapattarapong was named Player of the Year.

● The UNITED ARAB EMIRATES federation has suspended internationals Walid Salam, Subait Khater and Mohammad Omar after they missed training camps held in Austria in June and Italy in August.

Michael Church & Azam Mahmood

Zebra Theoklitis earns his stripes

OCEANIA

GOALKEEPERS BOASTING English League experience featured prominently in the Grand Finals of this year's AUSTRALIAN state competitions, which attracted greater attention than usual because the restructured national League is not scheduled to start until mid-2005.

A crowd of around 5,000 watched Bulleen Zebras claim the Victorian Premier League crown, largely thanks to the heroics of Michael Theoklitis. The keeper, back in Melbourne after a stint at Blackpool, kept Altona Magic scoreless for 120 minutes and then killed them off with three saves in the penalty shoot-out.

However, 39-year-old ex-Birmingham keeper Bob Catlin had less joy as his Manly Warringah Dolphins side went down 2-1 to underdogs Stanmore Hawks in the New South Wales Winter Super League decider.

In Brisbane, Queensland Lions' third successive Grand Final win, 4-2 against Pine Rivers, was marred by a serious injury to Jason Kearton. The ex-Everton keeper snapped an Achilles tendon with 10 minutes to go.

A golden goal from substitute Michelle Zanotto enabled Miramar Rangers to overcome Waitakere City 1-0 in NEW ZEALAND'S Chatham Cup Final.

Woeful finishing cost favourites Tuanamato Breeze dear, as they were defeated on penalties by North Zone after a 1-1 draw in the International Cup Final in SAMOA. Despite its name, the competition was confined to Samoan district selections and three American Samoan club sides.

Tupapa keeper Tyson Tekeu had a dream game as his side overcame Nikao in the Final of the season-opening Air New Zealand Competition in the COOK ISLANDS. Tekeu kept a clean sheet, made two saves in the penalty shoot-out and then stepped up to crack home the winner himself.

Paul Moon

All aboard the gravy train

Howard Johnson picks his way through the agent payments revealed in Manchester United's annual report

MANCHESTER UNITED'S annual report for the year ended July 31, 2004, follows a format well understood by anyone familiar with these things. It bullet points five highlights right at the top of the document, while couching the bad news – in this case the drop in media revenues for the year – in financial-speak somewhere less obvious.

Number four in this year's financial Hall of Fame, however, is an interesting one. It lists as a highlight, "setting a benchmark by providing full and transparent disclosure of all player transfer activity and agent fees". It seems that United are finally going to tell us exactly who snuffles up what from the great top-class football gravy train.

On the surface it seems very noble that United have decided to give us this information. And what information it is. They've paid £5.5 million to agents in the 12 months to July 31, while still owing another £3.5m from past deals. And they're coughing up a fee of up to £1.5m to the agent involved in the incoming transfer of Wayne Rooney.

But let's not forget that this new openness was hardly what you'd call a unilateral decision taken for the good of the game or for the empowerment of fans, with in-depth information about their club.

No, it was taken on the back of the nasty spat between one of United's leading shareholders, Cubic Expression – the investment vehicle of Irish racing tycoons J P McManus and John Magnier – and club manager Sir Alex Ferguson over a racehorse.

'What do these men really do to earn such staggering amounts?'

McManus and Magnier were so vexed by Ferguson's insistence on a large payment on the stud fees of Rock of Gibraltar, which he claimed he had been promised, that they started making demands that light be shone on some of the less transparent areas of United's business. Like the thorny issue of agents' fees paid for greasing the wheels of big-money transfers.

What seems remarkable to the outsider, though, is that quite so much grease needs to be applied to the wheels of what United themselves are ultra-keen to portray as the biggest football club in the world. Up to £1.5m to Paul Stretford's Proactive Sports Management for the Rooney deal, £750,000 to Branko Stojic and Pini Zahavi for Louis Saha's arrival from Fulham, £1.2m to Roger Linse simply for ensuring Ruud Van Nistelrooy stayed on at Old Trafford, £750,000 to Alex Black to get Alan Smith of relegated Leeds to sign on the dotted line.

Pay day...Paul Stretford

The idea that players are prepared to crawl over cut glass in order to wear the famous red shirt is a little old hat these days. Not unless agents get a healthy handout, anyway. And if that really is the case, what's the point of West Brom, for instance, even trying to sign anyone of note? And how much would they have to pay for the privilege?

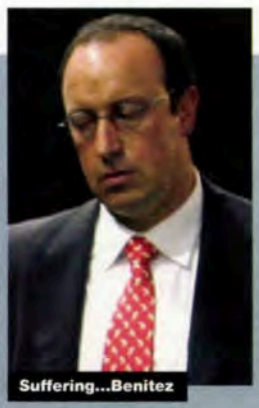
United's chief executive David Gill is keen to take the moral high ground on these financial revelations. He is already touting around the idea that he's doing it in the hope that such transparency will drive agents' fees down over time.

You have to take all that with a pinch of salt. Would Gill have been so keen to open his books if Magnier and McManus hadn't been such a pain in the backside? And would the club have been so keen to sever all ties – as they did – with Elite

IT'S ALL GONE WRONG FOR...

RAFA BENITEZ

He headed to England up for the challenge after bloodying the noses of Spain's football aristocracy, but the curse of Liverpool is already working its black magic. Having clinched a superb La Liga and UEFA Cup double last season, Benitez left sunny Valencia for murky Merseyside. So far, though, it's been positively gloomy. Wins at Anfield? Passable, but nothing to write home about, while three defeats and a draw from the first four away games have left the fans wondering whether this new bloke isn't in fact Gerard Houllier in disguise.


Suffering...Benitez

IT'S ALL GONE RIGHT FOR...

DAVID MOYES

When star turn and baby man Wayne Rooney was snaffled by Manchester United it really looked as if the Everton manager might need a few stiff whiskies to brace him for the dark days ahead. Now, though, the only need for cracking open a bottle is to celebrate Everton's barnstorming start. When, on paper, the squad looks workmanlike at best and relegation fodder at worst, you have to admit Moyes' qualities must have a little bit to do with the results.

Sports, an agency part-owned by Jason Ferguson, the son of Sir Alex, if someone had not been poking their nose into United's business.

Of course, agents will tell you that they're an integral part of the game these days. And rather more begrudgingly, clubs will too. After all, they would look pretty foolish if they were paying out this kind of cash to people who weren't essential. But working out what these men actually do to earn such staggering amounts is pretty tricky.

True, they doubtless act as the negotiator of the player's financial terms. But you can bet your life there's a lawyer heavily involved there. And no doubt the agent will pay his fees. But we're not talking multinational business acquisitions and takeovers, deals that take months to finalise through sheer complexity with the accompanying large bills for lots of expensive hours of labour.

Rumours to reality

Ask yourself this. How long does it take for a player to sign a contract from the first rumour of him leaving one club to him actually joining another? That should tell you pretty much how complicated things are. Black's fees after the signing of Smith were described as for "acquisition of the player and negotiation of his contract".

He got £750,000 – and what makes matters even more unbelievable is that Black earned his money first for helping United to negotiate with Leeds, then representing the player in the ensuing contract negotiations with his new club.

"As long as the payments are separate there's no conflict of interest," said Black. But what if an agent was going to be offered a bigger slice of the pie if he could persuade his client to sign for club X rather than club Y?

Regardless of whatever moral stance we take about the kind of people who look after top footballers, surely the scale of payments that they're receiving is out of all proportion to the services they offer. Don't forget, Rooney would still be Rooney on the pitch without a single adviser.

The days when clubs ruthlessly exploited players are over, in part thanks to agents. But now it's a case of poacher turned gamekeeper. And if you as a fan simply think 'Good luck to them if they can get away with it', then you won't mind a 10 per cent 'agents' fee' surcharge being added to the cost of your season ticket next year, will you?

Celebrating...Moyes

MEDIAWATCH

Flying...Rooney shows his delight after scoring three goals against Fenerbahce

Rooney's hat-trick

Wayne Rooney's Manchester United debut prompted an avalanche of media comment on his current ability, his prospects for the future and whether he can go on to be an all-time great...

"Rooney deserves all the over-the-top praise that has come his way. We are entitled to get carried away with someone of his talent. He is a special player, and if he looks after himself he will go on to become one of the great players of world football. It is almost impossible to predict just how big he could become, and I am not talking about his weight."
– *Gary Lineker,* The Daily Telegraph. *Serious analytical comment – and gags too!*

"Rooney made the difference. Occasionally he would resemble Bobby Charlton, in dropping deep, or Denis Law, when, with a thrilling dummy, he conjured space for the second goal (if you are expecting me now to compare him with Best, please accept I am not quite that daft)."
– The Sunday Telegraph's *Patrick Barclay holds back the ultimate accolade, but for how long?*

"He loves the big stage, the sky is the limit for him. Is he as good as me? Don't be silly!"
– The Independent *reports that George agrees with Patrick*

"Watching Rooney thump home United's second, third and fourth goals was like seeing my ex-girlfriend showing some leg. Same sexy look, but for someone else's delectation. It's hard to take."
– The Independent's *Brian Viner, an Evertonian, takes it all very personally*

"Playing great on your debut has been done by many people, but to play great on your debut after not kicking a ball for so long, that is very good."
Michael Owen mangles his syntax in The Sunday Mirror

"A night football will never forget...a child prodigy who has amazed the world."
– *An over-excited* Gazzetta dello Sport *waxes lyrical. Calm down, signor!*

"He's an instant cult hero but I think he will handle it. He's got no nerves."
– *Andy Ritchie in* The Independent. *You can be forgiven for not recognising the name, but Ritchie actually scored a hat-trick for United when he was even younger than Rooney!*

"I really respect the young fella and what he's done. I'm pleased for his family too. I only wish he'd been playing and scoring for Everton for the rest of his career, because I'm an Evertonian. I've been going to Goodison since 1947. But it is great to see him score like that – whether it's for Everton, England or his present club."
– The Independent On Sunday's *Simon Turnbull finds that Bob Pendleton, who discovered Rooney and is a lifelong Evertonian, can't bring himself to say 'Manchester United'*

"Wenger knows Wayne Rooney's seismic debut has changed the Premiership landscape. Manchester United are back. What had appeared a two-horse race a fortnight ago has another runner."
– *Arsenal and Chelsea have competition, says Glenn Moore in* The Independent

"Gareth's played over 50 times for England, and let's face it, has faced better players than Wayne Rooney."
– *Middlesbrough keeper Mark Schwarzer talks up his team-mate, defender Gareth Southgate, in* The Sun. *Boro then drew with United 1-1. Rooney didn't score*

TALENT SCOUT

TOMORROW'S STARS TODAY

Hatem BEN ARFA

Teenager making the leap from Clairefontaine to the Champions League

PARTICIPANTS IN TV reality shows normally sink without trace when their 15 minutes of fame elapse. However, such a fate was never likely to befall Lyon's brilliant teenage midfielder or front-runner Hatem Ben Arfa.

Three years after starring in a Canal Plus fly-on-the-wall series on the lives of young apprentices at France's national football academy at Clairefontaine, Ben Arfa's career continues to go from strength to strength. He recently signed his first professional contract with champions Lyon – which ties him to the club until 2007 – has broken into their first team this season and generally cuts the figure of a very special talent indeed.

Many a young player would find it an unbearable strain to be dubbed 'the new Zidane' or be compared with such illustrious Clairefontaine graduates as Jean-Pierre Papin, Nicolas Anelka and Thierry Henry. But not this remarkably-composed 17-year-old.

"I'm not a jewel that you put in an auction," says Ben Arfa, who was born and brought up in the Paris suburbs by Tunisian parents. "I'm not the future Zidane. I can only be myself. I've still so much to learn.

"Becoming a professional with Lyon is just the first step in my career. I hope there will be others. I hope to stay in the plans of [Lyon coach] Paul Le Guen. I'm confident I've made the right decision, that Lyon will be good for me."

And vice versa. As far as natural talent is concerned, Ben Arfa is as good as it gets, showing perfect balance when running with the ball, an instant change of pace, the tricks that leave defenders lunging at thin air, the vision and accuracy of pass, the sheer fearlessness.

It makes no difference to him whether he is appearing for Lyon's juniors or featuring in Ligue 1 or the Champions League with the first team. Whatever the stage, he plays with the same insouciance and freedom of expression.

Ben Arfa is a fine marksman, too, scoring 16 goals in 24 games for France's Under-17s, including three to help the young Blues win the European title earlier this year.

New senior national team boss Raymond Domenech, who has often criticised Ligue 1 coaches for preferring imports to the homegrown, believes Ben Arfa should be given his head as much as possible, although some fear possible burn-out.

Ben Arfa? He just wants to play.

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club Lyon
Country France
Born March 7, 1987, in Clamart
Previous club INF Clairefontaine
Honours European Under-17 Championship 2004

Jan LASTUVKA

Czech keeper heading east for fame and fortune

NO WONDER CZECH fans like to describe 1982 as a 'golden' time for goalkeepers, with both national team and Chelsea No 1 Petr Cech and Under-21 stalwart Jan Lastuvka coming into the world within two months of each other that year.

Lastuvka might not have Cech's well-founded international reputation and was not even selected for Euro 2004 – but his star is rising fast.

In outstanding form for Banik Ostrava last season as they claimed their first League title for 23 years, he was deservedly voted the country's Young Player of the Year.

Scouts from overseas clubs began to check on Lastuvka. However, rather than the traditional move west, he decided to move east, to join the ever-expanding pool of foreign talent at Ukrainian side Shakhtar Donetsk.

"I was drawn by [president] Rinat Akhmetov's ambitions for Shakhtar," said Lastuvka after his £1.3million move. "He wants the club to be a force in Europe. It's an exciting project."

Born in Karvina, a mining centre in the north-west of the Czech Republic, Lastuvka joined the city's top club, FC Karvina, at 10 and proved a diligent student. So good was his progress that he was picked for the Czech Under-16s in 1998 and made his first-team debut for Karvina in a Second Division match the following year.

Two years and several Under-17 and Under-18 caps later came the step up to the top flight with Banik. Now fame and fortune beckon in Ukraine.

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr)
Country Czech Republic
Born July 7, 1982, in Karvina
Previous clubs FC Karvina, Banik Ostrava
Honours Czech League 2004

Robert HUTH

Chelsea's 'Berlin Wall' standing tall after fine Germany debut

BRAZILIAN STRIKERS Ronaldo and Adriano should now understand why Chelsea players call their German team-mate Robert Huth 'The Berlin Wall'. The 20-year-old central defender erected an impenetrable barrier when making his full international debut against the world champions in the German capital, his home city, in a September friendly. Huth won a high percentage of tackles, dominated in the air and was regularly on hand to effect a last-ditch clearance.

The towering Huth is very much a throwback to the no-nonsense type of stopper Germany used to produce – but new national coach Jurgen Klinsmann was not taking an easy option when throwing him in against Brazil. The youngster had just four minutes of international football on the clock – from a substitute appearance against Austria in August – and was short of match practice.

But Huth countered Ronaldo and Adriano at every turn. "I wouldn't have liked to have come up against Robert when I was playing," enthused Klinsmann. "He doesn't let anything worry him."

He never has. Self-belief and single-mindedness have served Huth well since leaving Union Berlin for Chelsea a few weeks before his 16th birthday.

He was ideally suited to English football, graduating to the first team in less than two years and appearing in 20 League games last term.

However, John Terry, William Gallas and new signing Ricardo Carvalho look set to monopolise Chelsea's central defensive spots this season, and Huth may have to move during the January transfer window if he wants to play regularly.

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club Chelsea (Eng)
Country Germany
Born August 18, 1984, in Berlin
Previous club Union Berlin
International debut August 2004, v Austria
International caps 2 (0 goals)

Mauro ROSALES

Olympic gold medallist taking his chances in Amsterdam

THE FIRST FOUR months of Mauro Rosales' international career moved along with all the twists and turns of one of his dribbles down the right wing.

His Argentina debut, a World Cup qualifier against Brazil in Belo Horizonte in June, was pure humiliation. Rosales came on in the first half for the injured Cesar Delgado, but after just 25 minutes on the field he himself was substituted as his side fell to a 3-1 defeat.

Rosales bounced back, going to the Copa America and putting pressure on Delgado for the right-wing slot, which became his own at the Olympics, when his rival was switched to the left. Rosales played a key part in bringing to an end Argentina's 52-year wait for a gold medal, setting up Carlos Tevez to score the only goal of the Final, against Paraguay.

He gave a powerful illustration of his worth when World Cup qualification resumed in September, putting Argentina in front against Peru in Lima, then laying on the other two goals in a 3-1 win.

Even Argentina's change of coach seems to have worked to Rosales' advantage. Delgado, a Marcelo Bielsa favourite, was surprisingly left out of successor Jose Pekerman's first squad.

Rosales, who was part of Argentina's 2001 World Youth Cup triumph under Pekerman, has been handed the chance to establish himself as the senior side's leading wide man.

In the midst of all this international action came a move to Ajax, and the chance to play in the Champions League for a club where wingers have always been valued.

Amsterdam is a long way from small-town Argentina. At 13 the boy from Villa Maria, Cordoba, found Buenos Aires too much to cope with when he went for a trial with Boca Juniors and returned home after two weeks.

When opportunity knocked again he was more mature. Closer to home in Rosario, he made his way through the ranks with Newell's Old Boys, and right from his debut in October 1999 his promise was apparent.

The small, stocky winger quickly picked up a reputation for strength of character and for playing best against the biggest teams. His crosses were always a source of chances for others, and as he took on more responsibility his goal tally increased season by season.

International recognition has forced him to add more to his game. "I can't just think about attacking, as I did with Newell's," says Rosales. "I have to defend with the rest, and concentrate for the full 90 minutes. It's very demanding."

And excellent preparation for a successful club career in Europe.

Tim Vickery

FACT FILE

Club Ajax (Hol)
Country Argentina
Born February 24, 1981, in Villa Maria, Cordoba
Previous club Newell's Old Boys
International debut June 2004, v Brazil
International caps 10 (1 goal)
Honours Olympic gold 2004; World Youth Cup 2001

Fabrizio ZAMBRELLA

Swiss starlet settling at Brescia after Servette bust-up

BEING A much-in-demand young player does bring its complications. Just ask 18-year-old Swiss midfield starlet Fabrizio Zambrella, a recent arrival at Serie A side Brescia from Servette of Geneva.

Last spring the gifted teenage playmaker literally had the world at his feet. His father and agent Lucien was fielding enquiries from leading European clubs – including Juventus, Milan, Roma, Chelsea, Liverpool, Paris Saint-Germain, Marseille and Auxerre – and all young Zambrella had to do was choose his preferred destination.

Then a major glitch. In May, Servette president Marc Roger, the former player agent, banished Zambrella from the first-team squad for flying to London without permission for a trial at Chelsea. Zambrella senior claimed he had informed Roger of Chelsea's invitation and that the latter had given the green light. Roger emphatically denied it.

Zambrella, a Servette player since the age of 12 and a first-teamer for 15 months, would be sidelined until the season's end and forced to train with the youth team, though he was still selected for the Swiss side that took part in this summer's European Under-21 Championship in Germany.

Nor was the Chelsea affair the only bone of contention. The Zambrella family and Servette were also squabbling over his apprentice contract. Zambrella claimed it expired in June 2004, making him a free agent, but the club said he was tied to them until 2005, citing a clause which stipulated that if he had played 30 games for the first team before June, his contract would automatically roll over for another season. Lucien replied that since his son was a minor when he signed the deal, it was legally invalid.

With lawyers becoming embroiled in the dispute, Zambrella's admirers started to back away. However, in July, Servette reluctantly told a court of arbitration they would not stand in his way if he wanted to leave, and a fortnight later he moved to Brescia on a free transfer.

"Brescia were the first club to contact me. I trained with them and liked what I saw," said Geneva-born Zambrella, who also holds an Italian passport through his parents. "I will not be a certain starter there. But it will be less difficult to make an impact there than at a larger club."

Servette say they will continue to fight for compensation from Brescia but how they must wish they had signed him to a professional contract sooner.

As for Brescia, they have in Zambrella a goalscoring midfield general of huge potential, a brilliant amalgam of flair, goalscoring prowess and that rare ability to see possibilities a split-second before others.

"Fabrizio is very creative and has the sort of healthy self-confidence every player needs," says Swiss Under-21 boss Bernard Challandes. "He's a super talent."

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club Brescia (Ita)
Country Switzerland
Born March 1, 1986, in Geneva
Previous clubs Athletic Regina, Servette

Khalid BOULAHROUZ

Hamburg defender among Van Basten's new boys

THE OPENING WEEKS of the season have clearly broadened the horizons of 22-year-old Dutch defender Khalid Boulahrouz. Shortly after being introduced to the senior Holland squad, he was clearing out his locker at RKC Waalwijk and heading for Hamburg in a £1million deal.

Boulahrouz, one of the fresh faces brought into the *Oranje* side by new boss Marco Van Basten, certainly has much to offer on the international stage, not least his versatility. While by common consent his speed and power are best utilised in central defence, he also has the technical ability to be an excellent right-back and has even played well when pushed into emergency service as a winger or striker during his three years at RKC.

His other great asset is his indomitable spirit. "I hate it when team-mates are not aggressive enough on the pitch," complains Boulahrouz, who was born in the southern Dutch port of Maassluis to Moroccan parents. "You must always give 100 per cent or you lose. Before each game I say to myself that I must eat my opponent."

Such force of character no doubt helped him overcome early sporting and personal problems. As a 13-year-old he gained admission to the famous Ajax youth set-up, only to be released a season later. He moved on to the Haarlem junior ranks and then to AZ Alkmaar. However, at 16, his father died, and he seemed to lose his way, clashing with coach Hans De Koning.

But all was to change for the better following a transfer to RKC in 2001. Boulahrouz began to respond to the firm but always encouraging hand of head coach Martin Jol – now at Tottenham – and by the 2002-03 season, he was permanently ensconced in the first team.

"I didn't make it at Ajax for the good reason that my performances were up and down," says Boulahrouz. "The important thing was not to give up. I've seen too many people take that first step forward then get left behind. You have to keep going."

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club Hamburg (Ger)
Country Holland
Born December 28, 1981, in Maassluis
Previous clubs Excelsior Maassluis, Ajax, Haarlem, AZ Alkmaar, RKC Waalwijk
International debut September 2004, v Liechtenstein
International caps 2 (0 goals)

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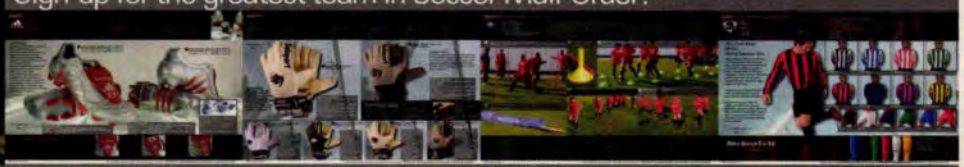

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Sep 19 - Maputo
Mozambique 0
Angola 1 (Flavio 68)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Jovinala (Mwi)
Mozambique: Kapagno - Miro (Danito 89), Nando, Tomas, Dario Khan, Nelinho, Goncalves Fumo (Amilcar 82), Gabito, Mano, Tico-Tico (Fala-Fala 72), To.
Angola: Lama - Jamba, Lebo-Lebo, Yamba Asha, Manuel (Kadima 19), Ze Kalanga (Santana 80), Simao, Stopirra (Samuel 67), Mateus, Flavio, Love.

Still to play:
Zimbabwe v Zambia (Oct 24, Harare)

2006 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

October game details will appear in next month's issue

AFRICA

5 finals berths

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Togo	5	3	1	1	6	2	10
Zambia	5	3	1	1	6	4	10
Senegal	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
Congo	5	2	0	3	6	7	6
Liberia	5	1	1	3	1	7	4
Mali	5	0	2	3	3	6	2

05.06.04 .....Senegal-Congo.....2-0
05.06.04 .....Zambia-Togo.....1-0
06.06.04 .....Liberia-Mali.....1-0
19.06.04 .....Mali-Zambia.....1-1
20.06.04 .....Congo-Liberia.....3-0
20.06.04 .....Togo-Senegal.....3-1
03.07.04 .....Senegal-Zambia.....1-0
04.07.04 .....Congo-Mali.....1-0
04.07.04 .....Liberia-Togo.....0-0
04.09.04 .....Zambia-Liberia.....1-0
05.09.04 .....Mali-Senegal.....2-2
05.09.04 .....Togo-Congo.....2-0
10.10.04 .....Congo-Zambia.....2-3
10.10.04 .....Liberia-Senegal.....0-3
10.10.04 .....Togo-Mali.....1-0
25.03.05 .....Mali-Togo
25.03.05 .....Senegal-Liberia
25.03.05 .....Zambia-Congo
03.06.05 .....Congo-Senegal
03.06.05 .....Mali-Liberia
03.06.05 .....Togo-Zambia
17.06.05 .....Liberia-Congo
17.06.05 .....Senegal-Togo
17.06.05 .....Zambia-Mali
02.09.05 .....Mali-Congo
02.09.05 .....Togo-Liberia
02.09.05 .....Zambia-Senegal
07.10.05 .....Congo-Togo
07.10.05 .....Liberia-Zambia
07.10.05 .....Senegal-Mali

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Africa	5	3	0	2	5	5	9
Ghana	5	2	2	1	6	2	8
DR Congo	5	2	2	1	5	4	8
Cape Verde Is	5	2	1	2	4	5	7
Burkina Faso	5	2	0	3	5	6	6
Uganda	5	1	1	3	2	5	4

05.06.04 .....Burkina Faso-Ghana.....1-0
05.06.04 .....South Africa-Cape Verde Is.....2-1
05.06.04 .....Uganda-DR Congo.....1-0
19.06.04 .....Cape Verde Is-Uganda.....1-0
20.06.04 .....DR Congo-Burkina Faso.....3-2
20.06.04 .....Ghana-South Africa.....3-0
03.07.04 .....Cape Verde Is-DR Congo.....1-1
03.07.04 .....South Africa-Burkina Faso.....2-0
03.07.04 .....Uganda-Ghana.....1-1
04.09.04 .....Burkina Faso-Uganda.....2-0
05.09.04 .....DR Congo-South Africa.....1-0
05.09.04 .....Ghana-Cape Verde Is.....2-0
09.10.04 .....Cape Verde Is-Burkina Faso.....1-0
10.10.04 .....Ghana-DR Congo.....0-0
10.10.04 .....Uganda-South Africa.....0-1
25.03.05 .....Burkina Faso-Cape Verde Is
25.03.05 .....DR Congo-Ghana
25.03.05 .....South Africa-Uganda
03.06.05 .....Cape Verde Is-South Africa
03.06.05 .....DR Congo-Uganda
03.06.05 .....Ghana-Burkina Faso
17.06.05 .....Burkina Faso-DR Congo
17.06.05 .....South Africa-Ghana
17.06.05 .....Uganda-Cape Verde Is
02.09.05 .....Burkina Faso-South Africa
02.09.05 .....DR Congo-Cape Verde Is
02.09.05 .....Ghana-Uganda
07.10.05 .....Cape Verde Is-Ghana
07.10.05 .....South Africa-DR Congo
07.10.05 .....Uganda-Burkina Faso

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast	5	4	0	1	10	3	12
Libya	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Cameroon	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Egypt	5	2	1	2	11	9	7
Benin	5	0	2	3	6	11	2
Sudan	5	0	2	3	2	11	2

06.06.04 .....Cameroon-Benin.....2-1
06.06.04 .....Ivory Coast-Libya.....2-0
06.06.04 .....Sudan-Egypt.....0-3
18.06.04 .....Libya-Cameroon.....0-0
20.06.04 .....Benin-Sudan.....1-1
20.06.04 .....Egypt-Ivory Coast.....1-2
03.07.04 .....Sudan-Libya.....0-1
04.07.04 .....Benin-Egypt.....3-3
04.07.04 .....Cameroon-Ivory Coast.....2-0
03.09.04 .....Libya-Benin.....4-1
05.09.04 .....Egypt-Cameroon.....3-2
05.09.04 .....Ivory Coast-Sudan.....5-0
08.10.04 .....Libya-Egypt.....2-1
09.10.04 .....Sudan-Cameroon.....1-1
10.10.04 .....Benin-Ivory Coast.....0-1
25.03.05 .....Cameroon-Sudan
25.03.05 .....Egypt-Libya
25.03.05 .....Ivory Coast-Benin
03.06.05 .....Benin-Cameroon
03.06.05 .....Egypt-Sudan
03.06.05 .....Libya-Ivory Coast
17.06.05 .....Cameroon-Libya
17.06.05 .....Ivory Coast-Egypt
17.06.05 .....Sudan-Benin
02.09.05 .....Egypt-Benin
02.09.05 .....Ivory Coast-Cameroon
02.09.05 .....Libya-Sudan
07.10.05 .....Benin-Libya
07.10.05 .....Cameroon-Egypt
07.10.05 .....Sudan-Ivory Coast

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Angola	5	3	2	0	5	2	11
Nigeria	5	3	1	1	7	2	10
Gabon	5	1	3	1	8	7	6
Zimbabwe	5	1	2	2	4	6	5
Rwanda	5	1	1	3	4	7	4
Algeria	5	0	3	2	2	6	3

05.06.04 .....Algeria-Angola.....0-0
05.06.04 .....Gabon-Zimbabwe.....1-1
05.06.04 .....Nigeria-Rwanda.....2-0
19.06.04 .....Rwanda-Gabon.....3-1
20.06.04 .....Angola-Nigeria.....1-0
20.06.04 .....Zimbabwe-Algeria.....1-1
03.07.04 .....Gabon-Angola.....2-2
03.07.04 .....Nigeria-Algeria.....1-0
03.07.04 .....Rwanda-Zimbabwe.....0-2
03.09.04 .....Zimbabwe-Nigeria.....0-3
05.09.04 .....Algeria-Gabon.....0-3
05.09.04 .....Angola-Rwanda.....1-0
09.10.04 .....Gabon-Nigeria.....1-1
09.10.04 .....Rwanda-Algeria.....1-1
10.10.04 .....Angola-Zimbabwe.....1-0
25.03.05 .....Algeria-Rwanda
25.03.05 .....Nigeria-Gabon
25.03.05 .....Zimbabwe-Angola
03.06.05 .....Angola-Algeria
03.06.05 .....Rwanda-Nigeria
03.06.05 .....Zimbabwe-Gabon
17.06.05 .....Algeria-Zimbabwe
17.06.05 .....Gabon-Rwanda
17.06.05 .....Nigeria-Angola
02.09.05 .....Algeria-Nigeria
02.09.05 .....Angola-Gabon
02.09.05 .....Zimbabwe-Rwanda
07.10.05 .....Gabon-Algeria
07.10.05 .....Nigeria-Zimbabwe
07.10.05 .....Rwanda-Angola

Group 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guinea	4	2	2	0	8	3	8
Morocco	4	1	3	0	4	3	6
Botswana	5	2	0	3	5	10	6
Tunisia	4	1	2	1	8	6	5
Kenya	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Malawi	5	0	3	2	6	9	3

05.06.04 .....Malawi-Morocco.....1-1
05.06.04 .....Tunisia-Botswana.....4-1
19.06.04 .....Botswana-Malawi.....2-0
20.06.04 .....Guinea-Tunisia.....2-1
03.07.04 .....Botswana-Morocco.....0-1
03.07.04 .....Malawi-Guinea.....1-1
04.09.04 .....Kenya-Malawi.....3-2
04.09.04 .....Morocco-Tunisia.....1-1
05.09.04 .....Guinea-Botswana.....4-0
09.10.04 .....Botswana-Kenya.....2-1
09.10.04 .....Malawi-Tunisia.....2-2
10.10.04 .....Guinea-Morocco.....1-1
17.11.04 .....Kenya-Guinea
09.02.05 .....Morocco-Kenya
25.03.05 .....Kenya-Botswana
25.03.05 .....Morocco-Guinea
25.03.05 .....Tunisia-Malawi
03.06.05 .....Morocco-Malawi
03.06.05 .....Botswana-Tunisia
03.06.05 .....Guinea-Kenya
17.06.05 .....Kenya-Morocco
17.06.05 .....Malawi-Botswana
17.06.05 .....Tunisia-Guinea
17.08.05 .....Tunisia-Kenya
02.09.05 .....Kenya-Tunisia
02.09.05 .....Morocco-Botswana
02.09.05 .....Guinea-Malawi
07.10.05 .....Malawi-Kenya
07.10.05 .....Tunisia-Morocco
07.10.05 .....Botswana-Guinea

Group winners qualify for finals

ASIA

4.5 finals berths

1st stage

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	4	3	0	1	12	2	9
Jordan	4	3	0	1	7	2	9
Qatar	4	2	0	2	12	5	6
Laos	4	0	0	4	1	23	0

18.02.04 .....Iran-Qatar.....3-1
18.02.04 .....Jordan-Laos.....5-0
31.03.04 .....Jordan-Qatar.....1-0
31.03.04 .....Laos-Iran.....0-7
09.06.04 .....Iran-Jordan.....0-1
09.06.04 .....Qatar-Laos.....5-0
08.09.04 .....Jordan-Iran.....0-2
08.09.04 .....Laos-Qatar.....1-6
13.10.04 .....Laos-Jordan
13.10.04 .....Qatar-Iran
17.11.04 .....Iran-Laos
17.11.04 .....Qatar-Jordan

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uzbekistan	4	3	1	0	8	1	10
Iraq	4	2	2	0	12	4	8
Palestine	4	1	1	2	9	7	4
Taiwan	4	0	0	4	2	19	0

18.02.04 .....Palestine-Taiwan.....8-0
18.02.04 .....Uzbekistan-Iraq.....1-1
31.03.04 .....Palestine-Iraq.....1-1
31.03.04 .....Taiwan-Uzbekistan.....0-1
09.06.04 .....Iraq-Taiwan.....6-1
09.06.04 .....Uzbekistan-Palestine.....3-0
08.09.04 .....Palestine-Uzbekistan.....0-3
08.09.04 .....Taiwan-Iraq.....1-4
13.10.04 .....Iraq-Uzbekistan
13.10.04 .....Taiwan-Palestine
16.11.04 .....Iraq-Palestine
17.11.04 .....Uzbekistan-Taiwan

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan	4	4	0	0	14	1	12
Oman	4	3	0	1	14	2	9
India	4	1	0	3	2	16	3
Singapore	4	0	0	4	1	12	0

18.02.04 .....India-Singapore.....1-0
18.02.04 .....Japan-Oman.....1-0
31.03.04 .....India-Oman.....1-5
31.03.04 .....Singapore-Japan.....1-2
09.06.04 .....Japan-India.....7-0
09.06.04 .....Oman-Singapore.....7-0
08.09.04 .....India-Japan.....0-4
08.09.04 .....Singapore-Oman.....0-2
13.10.04 .....Oman-Japan
13.10.04 .....Singapore-India
17.11.04 .....Japan-Singapore
17.11.04 .....Oman-India

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
China	4	4	0	0	7	0	12
Kuwait	4	3	0	1	8	1	9
Hong Kong	4	1	0	3	3	8	3
Malaysia	4	0	0	4	1	10	0

18.02.04 .....China-Kuwait.....1-0
18.02.04 .....Malaysia-Hong Kong.....1-3
31.03.04 .....Hong Kong-China.....0-1
31.03.04 .....Malaysia-Kuwait.....0-2
09.06.04 .....China-Malaysia.....4-0
09.06.04 .....Kuwait-Hong Kong.....4-0
08.09.04 .....Hong Kong-Kuwait.....0-2
08.09.04 .....Malaysia-China.....0-1
13.10.04 .....Hong Kong-Malaysia
13.10.04 .....Kuwait-China
17.11.04 .....China-Hong Kong
17.11.04 .....Kuwait-Malaysia

Group 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Korea	4	2	2	0	9	3	8
UAE	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Yemen	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Thailand	4	1	0	3	5	9	3

18.02.04 .....UAE-Thailand.....1-0
18.02.04 .....Yemen-North Korea.....1-1
31.03.04 .....North Korea-UAE.....0-0
31.03.04 .....Yemen-Thailand.....0-3
09.06.04 .....Thailand-North Korea.....1-4
09.06.04 .....UAE-Yemen.....3-0
08.09.04 .....North Korea-Thailand.....4-1
08.09.04 .....Yemen-UAE.....3-1
13.10.04 .....North Korea-Yemen
13.10.04 .....Thailand-UAE
17.11.04 .....Thailand-Yemen
17.11.04 .....UAE-North Korea

Group 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bahrain	4	3	1	0	9	2	10
Syria	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Tajikistan	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
Kyrgyzstan	4	0	1	3	3	10	1

18.02.04 .....Bahrain-Syria.....2-1
18.02.04 .....Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan.....1-2
31.03.04 .....Kyrgyzstan-Syria.....1-1
31.03.04 .....Tajikistan-Bahrain.....0-0
09.06.04 .....Bahrain-Kyrgyzstan.....5-0
10.06.04 .....Syria-Tajikistan.....2-1
08.09.04 .....Kyrgyzstan-Bahrain.....1-2
08.09.04 .....Tajikistan-Syria.....0-1
13.10.04 .....Syria-Bahrain
13.10.04 .....Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan
17.11.04 .....Bahrain-Tajikistan
17.11.04 .....Syria-Kyrgyzstan

Group 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	4	3	1	0	6	1	10
Lebanon	4	3	0	1	10	4	9
Vietnam	4	1	0	3	5	6	3
Maldives	4	0	1	3	2	12	1

18.02.04 .....South Korea-Lebanon.....2-0
18.02.04 .....Vietnam-Maldives.....4-0
31.03.04 .....Maldives-South Korea.....0-0
31.03.04 .....Vietnam-Lebanon.....0-2
09.06.04 .....Lebanon-Maldives.....3-0
09.06.04 .....South Korea-Vietnam.....2-0
08.09.04 .....Maldives-Lebanon.....2-5
08.09.04 .....Vietnam-South Korea.....1-2
13.10.04 .....Lebanon-South Korea
13.10.04 .....Maldives-Vietnam
17.11.04 .....Lebanon-Vietnam
17.11.04 .....South Korea-Maldives

Group 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saudi Arabia	4	4	0	0	8	0	12
Turkmenistan	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Indonesia	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Sri Lanka	5	0	2	3	4	8	2

18.02.04 .....Saudi Arabia-Indonesia.....3-0
18.02.04 .....Turkmenistan-Sri Lanka.....2-0
31.03.04 .....Sri Lanka-Saudi Arabia.....0-1
31.03.04 .....Turkmenistan-Indonesia.....3-1
09.06.04 .....Indonesia-Sri Lanka.....1-0
09.06.04 .....Saudi Arabia-Turkmenistan.....3-0
08.09.04 .....Sri Lanka-Indonesia.....2-2
08.09.04 .....Turkmenistan-Saudi Arabia.....0-1
09.10.04 .....Sri Lanka-Turkmenistan.....2-2
12.10.04 .....Indonesia-Saudi Arabia
17.11.04 .....Indonesia-Turkmenistan
17.11.04 .....Saudi Arabia-Sri Lanka

Group winners advance to 2nd stage

2nd stage

The eight qualifiers are divided into two groups of four. The winners and runners-up of these groups qualify for finals. The two third-placed sides meet in a two-leg play-off, the winner of which meets the fourth-placed CONCACAF team over two legs for a place in finals

CONCACAF

3.5 finals berths

2nd stage

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
United States	4	2	2	0	6	2	8
Panama	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Jamaica	4	1	2	1	6	4	5
El Salvador	4	1	0	3	2	8	3

18.08.04 .....El Salvador-Panama.....2-1
18.08.04 .....Jamaica-United States.....1-1
04.09.04 .....Jamaica-Panama.....1-2
04.09.04 .....United States-El Salvador.....2-0
08.09.04 .....El Salvador-Jamaica.....0-3
08.09.04 .....Panama-United States.....1-1
09.10.04 .....El Salvador-United States.....0-2
09.10.04 .....Panama-Jamaica.....1-1
13.10.04 .....Jamaica-El Salvador
13.10.04 .....United States-Panama
17.11.04 .....Panama-El Salvador
17.11.04 .....United States-Jamaica

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guatemala	4	2	1	1	6	8	7
Honduras	4	1	3	0	9	6	6
Costa Rica	4	2	0	2	9	7	6
Canada	4	0	2	2	2	5	2

18.08.04 .....Canada-Guatemala.....0-2
18.08.04 .....Costa Rica-Honduras 2-5
04.09.04 .....Canada-Honduras 1-1
05.09.04 .....Guatemala-Costa Rica.....2-1
08.09.04 .....Costa Rica-Canada.....1-0
08.09.04 .....Honduras-Guatemala 2-2
09.10.04 .....Costa Rica-Guatemala.....5-0
09.10.04 .....Honduras-Canada 1-1
13.10.04 .....Canada-Costa Rica
13.10.04 .....Guatemala-Honduras
17.11.04 .....Guatemala-Canada
17.11.04 .....Honduras-Costa Rica

Group 3

Sep 10 - Kingstown
St Vincent & The Grenadines 1 (Jack 23)
St Kitts & Nevis 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Delgado Gutierrez (Cub)
St Vincent & The Grenadines: Andrews - C Huggins, W John, Hendrickson, M Charles, Pierre, Jack, B Samuel (M Forde 66), Haynes (S Samuel 63), Velox (Williams 76), Ballantyne.
St Kitts & Nevis: Byron - Richards, T Riley, Leader, G Isaac, Harris, Hodge (Sargeant 59), Gumbs, Gomez (Connonier 88), Huggins, Lake (Warner 77).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	3	3	0	0	11	1	9
Trinidad & Tob	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
St Vincent/G'nes	4	1	0	3	1	10	3
St Kitts & Nevis	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

18.08.04 .....St Vincent/G'dines-Trin & Tob.....0-2
04.09.04 .....St Kitts & Nevis-Trinidad & Tob...1-2
08.09.04 .....Trinidad & Tobago-Mexico.....1-3
10.09.04 .....St Vincent/G'dines-St Kitts & N...1-0
06.10.04 .....Mexico-St Vincent/G'dines.....7-0
09.10.04 .....St Vincent/G'dines-Mexico.....0-1
09.10.04 .....Trinidad & Tob-St Kitts & Nevis...5-1
13.10.04 .....Mexico-Trinidad & Tob
13.10.04 .....St Kitts & N-St Vincent/G'dines
13.11.04 .....St Kitts & Nevis-Mexico
17.11.04 .....Mexico-St Kitts & Nevis
17.11.04 .....Trin & Tob-St Vincent/G'dines

Top two from each group advance to 3rd stage

3rd stage

The six qualifiers play in a single group, the top three from which qualify for finals. The fourth-placed team meet the winners of the Asian play-off over two legs for a place in finals

EUROPE

14 finals berths (including hosts Germany, who qualify automatically)

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	4	3	0	1	9	4	9
Finland	4	3	0	1	9	3	9
Macedonia	3	1	1	1	6	4	4
Holland	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Czech Republic	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Andorra	2	0	0	2	1	8	0
Armenia	3	0	0	3	1	8	0

18.08.04 .....Macedonia-Armenia.....3-0
18.08.04 .....Romania-Finland.....2-1
04.09.04 .....Finland-Andorra 3-0
04.09.04 .....Romania-Macedonia 2-1
08.09.04 .....Andorra-Romania.....1-5
08.09.04 .....Armenia-Finland.....0-2
08.09.04 .....Holland-Czech Republic 2-0
09.10.04 .....Czech Republic-Romania 1-0
09.10.04 .....Finland-Armenia.....3-1
09.10.04 .....Macedonia-Holland 2-2
13.10.04 .....Andorra-Macedonia
13.10.04 .....Armenia-Czech Republic
13.10.04 .....Holland-Finland
17.11.04 .....Andorra-Holland
17.11.04 .....Armenia-Romania
17.11.04 .....Macedonia-Czech Republic
09.02.05 .....Macedonia-Andorra
26.03.05 .....Armenia-Andorra
26.03.05 .....Czech Republic-Finland
26.03.05 .....Romania-Holland
30.03.05 .....Andorra-Czech Republic
30.03.05 .....Holland-Armenia
30.03.05 .....Macedonia-Romania
04.06.05 .....Armenia-Macedonia
04.06.05 .....Czech Republic-Andorra
04.06.05 .....Holland-Romania
08.06.05 .....Czech Republic-Macedonia
08.06.05 .....Finland-Holland
08.06.05 .....Romania-Armenia
17.08.05 .....Macedonia-Finland
17.08.05 .....Romania-Andorra
03.09.05 .....Andorra-Finland
03.09.05 .....Armenia-Holland
03.09.05 .....Romania-Czech Republic
07.09.05 .....Czech Republic-Armenia
07.09.05 .....Finland-Macedonia
07.09.05 .....Holland-Andorra
08.10.05 .....Czech Republic-Holland
08.10.05 .....Finland-Romania
12.10.05 .....Andorra-Armenia
12.10.05 .....Finland-Czech Republic
12.10.05 .....Holland-Macedonia

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	3	1	2	0	5	1	5
Ukraine	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Denmark	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Georgia	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Albania	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Greece	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Kazakhstan	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

04.09.04 .....Albania-Greece.....2-1
04.09.04 .....Denmark-Ukraine.....1-1
04.09.04 .....Turkey-Georgia.....1-1
08.09.04 .....Georgia-Albania.....2-0
08.09.04 .....Greece-Turkey.....0-0
08.09.04 .....Kazakhstan-Ukraine.....1-2
09.10.04 .....Albania-Denmark 0-2
09.10.04 .....Turkey-Kazakhstan 4-0
09.10.04 .....Ukraine-Greece 1-1
13.10.04 .....Denmark-Turkey
13.10.04 .....Kazakhstan-Albania
13.10.04 .....Ukraine-Georgia
17.11.04 .....Georgia-Denmark
17.11.04 .....Greece-Kazakhstan
17.11.04 .....Turkey-Ukraine
09.02.05 .....Albania-Ukraine
09.02.05 .....Greece-Denmark
26.03.05 .....Denmark-Kazakhstan
26.03.05 .....Georgia-Greece
26.03.05 .....Turkey-Albania
30.03.05 .....Georgia-Turkey
30.03.05 .....Greece-Albania
30.03.05 .....Ukraine-Denmark
04.06.05 .....Albania-Georgia
04.06.05 .....Turkey-Greece
04.06.05 .....Ukraine-Kazakhstan
08.06.05 .....Denmark-Albania
08.06.05 .....Greece-Ukraine
08.06.05 .....Kazakhstan-Turkey
17.08.05 .....Kazakhstan-Georgia
03.09.05 .....Albania-Kazakhstan
03.09.05 .....Georgia-Ukraine
03.09.05 .....Turkey-Denmark
07.09.05 .....Denmark-Georgia
07.09.05 .....Kazakhstan-Greece
07.09.05 .....Ukraine-Turkey
08.10.05 .....Denmark-Greece
08.10.05 .....Georgia-Kazakhstan
08.10.05 .....Ukraine-Albania
12.10.05 .....Albania-Turkey
12.10.05 .....Greece-Georgia
12.10.05 .....Kazakhstan-Denmark

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovakia	4	3	1	0	15	3	10
Portugal	3	2	1	0	8	2	7
Estonia	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Russia	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Latvia	3	1	0	2	5	9	3
Liechtenstein	3	0	1	2	3	11	1
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	4	15	0

18.08.04 .....Liechtenstein-Estonia 1-2
18.08.04 .....Slovakia-Luxembourg 3-1
04.09.04 .....Estonia-Luxembourg 4-0
04.09.04 .....Latvia-Portugal.....0-2
04.09.04 .....Russia-Slovakia 1-1
08.09.04 .....Luxembourg-Latvia 3-4
08.09.04 .....Portugal-Estonia.....4-0
08.09.04 .....Slovakia-Liechtenstein.....7-0
09.10.04 .....Liechtenstein-Portugal.....2-2
09.10.04 .....Luxembourg-Russia 0-4
09.10.04 .....Slovakia-Latvia.....4-1
13.10.04 .....Latvia-Estonia
13.10.04 .....Luxembourg-Liechtenstein
13.10.04 .....Portugal-Russia
17.11.04 .....Liechtenstein-Latvia
17.11.04 .....Luxembourg-Portugal
17.11.04 .....Russia-Estonia
26.03.05 .....Estonia-Slovakia
26.03.05 .....Liechtenstein-Russia
30.03.05 .....Estonia-Russia
30.03.05 .....Latvia-Luxembourg
30.03.05 .....Slovakia-Portugal
04.06.05 .....Estonia-Liechtenstein
04.06.05 .....Portugal-Slovakia
04.06.05 .....Russia-Latvia
08.06.05 .....Estonia-Portugal
08.06.05 .....Latvia-Liechtenstein
08.06.05 .....Luxembourg-Slovakia
17.08.05 .....Latvia-Russia
17.08.05 .....Liechtenstein-Slovakia
03.09.05 .....Estonia-Latvia
03.09.05 .....Portugal-Luxembourg
03.09.05 .....Russia-Liechtenstein
07.09.05 .....Latvia-Slovakia
07.09.05 .....Liechtenstein-Luxembourg
07.09.05 .....Russia-Portugal
08.10.05 .....Portugal-Liechtenstein
08.10.05 .....Russia-Luxembourg
08.10.05 .....Slovakia-Estonia
12.10.05 .....Luxembourg-Estonia
12.10.05 .....Portugal-Latvia
12.10.05 .....Slovakia-Russia

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	3	1	2	0	9	3	5
Rep Ireland	3	1	2	0	4	1	5
France	3	1	2	0	2	0	5
Israel	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Cyprus	3	0	1	2	3	7	1
Faroe Islands	3	0	1	2	2	10	1

04.09.04 .....France-Israel.....0-0
04.09.04 .....Rep Ireland-Cyprus 3-0
04.09.04 .....Switzerland-Faroe Islands 6-0
08.09.04 .....Faroe Islands-France 0-2
08.09.04 .....Israel-Cyprus.....2-1
08.09.04 .....Switzerland-Rep Ireland.....1-1
09.10.04 .....Cyprus-Faroe Islands 2-2
09.10.04 .....France-Rep Ireland 0-0
09.10.04 .....Israel-Switzerland 2-2
13.10.04 .....Cyprus-France
13.10.04 .....Rep Ireland-Faroe Islands
17.11.04 .....Cyprus-Israel
26.03.05 .....Israel-Rep Ireland
26.03.05 .....France-Switzerland
30.03.05 .....Israel-France
30.03.05 .....Switzerland-Cyprus
04.06.05 .....Faroe Islands-Switzerland
04.06.05 .....Rep Ireland-Israel
08.06.05 .....Faroe Islands-Rep Ireland
17.08.05 .....Faroe Islands-Cyprus
03.09.05 .....France-Faroe Islands
03.09.05 .....Switzerland-Israel
07.09.05 .....Cyprus-Switzerland
07.09.05 .....Faroe Islands-Israel
07.09.05 .....Rep Ireland-France
08.10.05 .....Cyprus-Rep Ireland
08.10.05 .....Switzerland-France
08.10.05 .....Israel-Faroe Islands
12.10.05 .....France-Cyprus
12.10.05 .....Rep Ireland-Switzerland

Group 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovenia	3	2	1	0	4	0	7
Italy	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Belarus	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Norway	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Scotland	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Moldova	3	0	0	3	0	8	0

04.09.04 .....Italy-Norway.....2-1
04.09.04 .....Slovenia-Moldova.....3-0
08.09.04 .....Moldova-Italy 0-1
08.09.04 .....Norway-Belarus 1-1
08.09.04 .....Scotland-Slovenia 0-0
09.10.04 .....Belarus-Moldova 4-0
09.10.04 .....Scotland-Norway 0-1
09.10.04 .....Slovenia-Italy 1-0
13.10.04 .....Italy-Belarus
13.10.04 .....Moldova-Scotland
13.10.04 .....Norway-Slovenia
26.03.05 .....Italy-Scotland
30.03.05 .....Moldova-Norway
30.03.05 .....Slovenia-Belarus
04.06.05 .....Belarus-Slovenia
04.06.05 .....Norway-Italy
04.06.05 .....Scotland-Moldova
08.06.05 .....Belarus-Scotland
03.09.05 .....Moldova-Belarus
03.09.05 .....Scotland-Italy
03.09.05 .....Slovenia-Norway
07.09.05 .....Belarus-Italy
07.09.05 .....Moldova-Slovenia
07.09.05 .....Norway-Scotland
08.10.05 .....Italy-Slovenia
08.10.05 .....Norway-Moldova
08.10.05 .....Scotland-Belarus
12.10.05 .....Belarus-Norway
12.10.05 .....Italy-Moldova
12.10.05 .....Slovenia-Scotland

Group 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Poland	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
Austria	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Wales	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Azerbaijan	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
N Ireland	3	0	2	1	2	5	2

04.09.04 .....Austria-England.....2-2
04.09.04 .....Azerbaijan-Wales 1-1
04.09.04 .....Northern Ireland-Poland.....0-3
08.09.04 .....Austria-Azerbaijan.....2-0
08.09.04 .....Poland-England 1-2
08.09.04 .....Wales-Northern Ireland.....2-2
09.10.04 .....Austria-Poland.....1-3
09.10.04 .....Azerbaijan-Northern Ireland.....0-0
09.10.04 .....England-Wales 2-0
13.10.04 .....Azerbaijan-England
13.10.04 .....Northern Ireland-Austria
13.10.04 .....Wales-Poland
26.03.05 .....England-Northern Ireland
26.03.05 .....Poland-Azerbaijan
26.03.05 .....Wales-Austria
30.03.05 .....Austria-Wales
30.03.05 .....England-Azerbaijan
30.03.05 .....Poland-Northern Ireland
04.06.05 .....Azerbaijan-Poland
03.09.05 .....Northern Ireland-Azerbaijan
03.09.05 .....Poland-Austria
03.09.05 .....Wales-England
07.09.05 .....Azerbaijan-Austria
07.09.05 .....Northern Ireland-England
07.09.05 .....Poland-Wales
08.10.05 .....England-Austria
08.10.05 .....Northern Ireland-Wales
12.10.05 .....Austria-Northern Ireland
12.10.05 .....England-Poland
12.10.05 .....Wales-Azerbaijan

Group 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lithuania	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Serbia & M'negro	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
Spain	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Bosnia-Herz	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Belgium	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
San Marino	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

04.09.04 .....Belgium-Lithuania.....1-1
04.09.04 .....San Marino-Serbia & M'negro.....0-3
08.09.04 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Spain.....1-1
08.09.04 .....Lithuania-San Marino.....4-0
09.10.04 .....Bosnia-Herz.-Serbia & M'negro ..0-0
09.10.04 .....Spain-Belgium.....2-0
13.10.04 .....Lithuania-Spain
13.10.04 .....Serbia & M'negro-San Marino
17.11.04 .....Belgium-Serbia & M'negro
17.11.04 .....San Marino-Lithuania
09.02.05 .....Spain-San Marino
26.03.05 .....Belgium-Bosnia-Herzegovina

30.03.05 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Lithuania
30.03.05 .....San Marino-Belgium
30.03.05 .....Serbia & M'negro-Spain
04.06.05 .....San Marino-Bosnia-Herzegovina
04.06.05 .....Serbia & M'negro-Belgium
04.06.05 .....Spain-Lithuania
08.06.05 .....Spain-Bosnia-Herzegovina
03.09.05 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Belgium
03.09.05 .....Serbia & M'negro-Lithuania
07.09.05 .....Belgium-San Marino
07.09.05 .....Lithuania-Bosnia-Herzegovina
07.09.05 .....Spain-Serbia & M'negro
08.10.05 .....Belgium-Spain
08.10.05 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-San Marino
08.10.05 .....Lithuania-Serbia & M'negro
12.10.05 .....Lithuania-Belgium
12.10.05 .....San Marino-Spain
12.10.05 .....Serbia & M'negro-Bosnia-Herz.

Group 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Sweden	3	2	0	1	10	1	6
Bulgaria	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Hungary	3	1	0	2	3	8	3
Iceland	3	0	1	2	3	6	1
Malta	2	0	1	1	0	7	1

04.09.04 .....Croatia-Hungary 3-0
04.09.04 .....Iceland-Bulgaria 1-3
04.09.04 .....Malta-Sweden 0-7
08.09.04 .....Hungary-Iceland 3-2
08.09.04 .....Sweden-Croatia 0-1
09.10.04 .....Croatia-Bulgaria 2-2
09.10.04 .....Malta-Iceland 0-0
09.10.04 .....Sweden-Hungary 3-0
13.10.04 .....Bulgaria-Malta
13.10.04 .....Iceland-Sweden
17.11.04 .....Malta-Hungary
26.03.05 .....Bulgaria-Sweden
26.03.05 .....Croatia-Iceland
30.03.05 .....Croatia-Malta
30.03.05 .....Hungary-Bulgaria
04.06.05 .....Bulgaria-Croatia
04.06.05 .....Iceland-Hungary
04.06.05 .....Sweden-Malta
08.06.05 .....Iceland-Malta
03.09.05 .....Hungary-Malta
03.09.05 .....Iceland-Croatia
03.09.05 .....Sweden-Bulgaria
07.09.05 .....Bulgaria-Iceland
07.09.05 .....Hungary-Sweden
07.09.05 .....Malta-Croatia
08.10.05 .....Bulgaria-Hungary
08.10.05 .....Croatia-Sweden
12.10.05 .....Hungary-Croatia
12.10.05 .....Malta-Bulgaria
12.10.05 .....Sweden-Iceland

Group winners and the two best runners-up qualify for finals. The other six runners-up are paired in three two-leg play-off matches, the winners of which also qualify for finals

OCEANIA

0.5 finals berths

3rd stage

Australia and the Solomon Islands meet in a two-leg play-off in September 2005, the winners of which meet the fifth-placed South American team over two legs for a place in finals

SOUTH AMERICA

4.5 finals berths

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	9	5	4	0	19	10	19
Argentina	9	5	3	1	18	9	18
Paraguay	9	4	3	2	11	9	15
Ecuador	9	4	1	4	10	8	13
Chile	9	3	3	3	9	9	12
Venezuela	9	3	1	5	8	13	10
Uruguay	9	3	1	5	15	23	10
Bolivia	9	3	0	6	11	19	9
Colombia	9	2	3	4	11	11	9
Peru	9	2	3	4	10	11	9

06.09.03 .....Argentina-Chile 2-2
06.09.03 .....Ecuador-Venezuela 2-0
06.09.03 .....Peru-Paraguay 4-1
07.09.03 .....Colombia-Brazil 1-2
07.09.03 .....Uruguay-Bolivia 5-0
09.09.03 .....Chile-Peru 2-1
09.09.03 .....Venezuela-Argentina 0-3
10.09.03 .....Bolivia-Colombia 4-0
10.09.03 .....Brazil-Ecuador 1-0
10.09.03 .....Paraguay-Uruguay 4-1
15.11.03 .....Argentina-Bolivia 3-0
15.11.03 .....Colombia-Venezuela 0-1
15.11.03 .....Paraguay-Ecuador 2-1
15.11.03 .....Uruguay-Chile 2-1
16.11.03 .....Peru-Brazil 1-1
18.11.03 .....Chile-Paraguay 0-1
18.11.03 .....Venezuela-Bolivia 2-1
19.11.03 .....Brazil-Uruguay 3-3
19.11.03 .....Colombia-Argentina 1-1
19.11.03 .....Ecuador-Peru 0-0
30.03.04 .....Argentina-Ecuador 1-0
30.03.04 .....Bolivia-Chile 0-2
31.03.04 .....Paraguay-Brazil 0-0
31.03.04 .....Peru-Colombia 0-2
31.03.04 .....Uruguay-Venezuela 0-3
01.06.04 .....Bolivia-Paraguay 2-1
01.06.04 .....Uruguay-Peru 1-3
01.06.04 .....Venezuela-Chile 0-1
02.06.04 .....Brazil-Argentina 3-1
02.06.04 .....Ecuador-Colombia 2-1
05.06.04 .....Ecuador-Bolivia 3-2
06.06.04 .....Argentina-Paraguay 0-0
06.06.04 .....Chile-Brazil 1-1
06.06.04 .....Colombia-Uruguay 5-0
06.06.04 .....Peru-Venezuela 0-0
04.09.04 .....Peru-Argentina 1-3
05.09.04 .....Brazil-Bolivia 3-1
05.09.04 .....Chile-Colombia 0-0
05.09.04 .....Paraguay-Venezuela 1-0
05.09.04 .....Uruguay-Ecuador 1-0
09.10.04 .....Argentina-Uruguay 4-2
09.10.04 .....Bolivia-Peru 1-0
09.10.04 .....Colombia-Paraguay 1-1
09.10.04 .....Venezuela-Brazil 2-5
10.10.04 .....Ecuador-Chile 2-0
12.10.04 .....Bolivia-Uruguay
13.10.04 .....Brazil-Colombia
13.10.04 .....Chile-Argentina
13.10.04 .....Paraguay-Peru
14.10.04 .....Venezuela-Ecuador
16.11.04 .....Peru-Chile
17.11.04 .....Argentina-Venezuela
17.11.04 .....Colombia-Bolivia
17.11.04 .....Ecuador-Brazil
17.11.04 .....Uruguay-Paraguay
26/27.03.05 ....Bolivia-Argentina
26/27.03.05 ....Brazil-Peru
26/27.03.05 ....Chile-Uruguay
26/27.03.05 ....Ecuador-Paraguay
26/27.03.05 ....Venezuela-Colombia
29/30.03.05 ....Argentina-Colombia
29/30.03.05 ....Bolivia-Venezuela
29/30.03.05 ....Paraguay-Chile
29/30.03.05 ....Peru-Ecuador
29/30.03.05 ....Uruguay-Brazil
04/05.06.05 ....Brazil-Paraguay
04/05.06.05 ....Chile-Bolivia
04/05.06.05 ....Colombia-Peru
04/05.06.05 ....Ecuador-Argentina
04/05.06.05 ....Venezuela-Uruguay
07/08.06.05 ....Argentina-Brazil
07/08.06.05 ....Chile-Venezuela
07/08.06.05 ....Colombia-Ecuador
07/08.06.05 ....Paraguay-Bolivia
07/08.06.05 ....Peru-Uruguay
03/04.09.05 ....Bolivia-Ecuador
03/04.09.05 ....Brazil-Chile
03/04.09.05 ....Paraguay-Argentina
03/04.09.05 ....Uruguay-Colombia
03/04.09.05 ....Venezuela-Peru
08/09.10.05 ....Argentina-Peru
08/09.10.05 ....Bolivia-Brazil
08/09.10.05 ....Colombia-Chile
08/09.10.05 ....Ecuador-Uruguay
08/09.10.05 ....Venezuela-Paraguay
11/12.10.05 ....Brazil-Venezuela
11/12.10.05 ....Chile-Ecuador
11/12.10.05 ....Paraguay-Colombia
11/12.10.05 ....Peru-Bolivia
11/12.10.05 ....Uruguay-Argentina

Top four qualify for finals; fifth-placed side enter a play-off against Oceania section winners for a place in finals

EUROPE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

September 15

Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) 0
Olympiakos (Gre) 0
Att: 31,000. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)
Deportivo: Molina - Manuel Pablo, Cesar, Jorge Andrade, Romero, Munitis (Hector 89), Valeron, Scaloni, Sergio, Luque (Fran 71), Pandiani.
Olympiakos: Nikopolidis - Pantos (Kostoulas 89), Anatolakis, Schurrer, Venetidis, Kafes, Giovanni (Mavrogenidis 77), Stoltidis, Georgatos (Georgiadis 86), Rivaldo, Okkas.

Liverpool (Eng) 2 (Cisse 22, Baros 84)
Monaco (Fra) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,201. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
Liverpool: Dudek - Josemi, Hyypia, Carragher, Riise, Finnan, Xabi Alonso, Gerrard, Kewell (Warnock 77), Cisse (Baros 69), Luis Garcia (Biscan 87).
Monaco: Roma - Rodriguez, Squillaci, Givet (El-Fakiri 80), Maicon, Zikos, Farnerud, Perez (Juan 89), Evra (Camara 46), Adebayor, Kallon.

September 28

Monaco 2 (Kallon 5, Saviola 10)
Deportivo La Coruna 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 13,673. **Ref:** Farina (Ita)
Monaco: Roma - Maicon, Squillaci, Rodriguez, Givet, Farnerud, Zikos (Perez 58), Evra (Modesto 85), Kallon, Adebayor (Chevanton 78), Saviola.
Deportivo: Molina - Manuel Pablo, Jorge Andrade, Pablo Amo, Capdevila, Sergio (Scaloni 46), Duscher, Victor, Valeron, Fran (Munitis 63), Pandiani (Luque 56).

Olympiakos 1 (Stoltidis 17)
Liverpool 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 33,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Olympiakos: Nikopolidis - Mavrogenidis (Venetidis 72), Anatolakis, Schurrer, Pantos, Stoltidis, Kafes, Georgatos (Vallas 85), Rivaldo, Giovanni (Georgiadis 72), Okkas. *Sent off: Pantos 90min.*
Liverpool: Dudek - Josemi (Cisse 74), Carragher, Hyypia, Riise, Finnan, Xabi Alonso, Hamann (Diao 82), Warnock (Kewell 46), Luis Garcia, Baros.

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Liverpool	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Monaco	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Dep La Coruna	2	0	1	1	0	2	1

Tue, October 19
Liverpool v Deportivo
Monaco v Olympiakos

Wed, November 3
Deportivo v Liverpool
Olympiakos v Monaco

Tue, November 23
Monaco v Liverpool
Olympiakos v Deportivo

Wed, December 8
Deportivo v Monaco
Liverpool v Olympiakos

Group B

September 15

Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 3 (Krzynowek 39, Franca 50, Berbatov 55)
Real Madrid (Spa) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Leverkusen: Butt - Roque Junior, Juan, Placente, Schneider, Freier (Bierofka 83), Ponte (Balitsch 80), Ramelow, Krzynowek, Franca (Babic 69), Berbatov.
Real Madrid: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Samuel, Pavon, Roberto Carlos, Figo (Celades 58), Beckham, Ivan Helguera, Zidane (Morientes 46), Raul, Ronaldo (Solari 58).

***Roma (Ita) 0**
***Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr) 1** (Gavrancic 29)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
**Game awarded 3-0 to Dynamo. Abandoned at half-time after referee Frisk was injured by an object thrown by a Roma supporter*
Roma: Pelizzoli - Panucci, Ferrari, Mexes, Cufre, Mancini, Dacourt, De Rossi, Aquilani, Totti, Montella. *Sent off: Mexes 45min.*
Dynamo: Shovkovskyi - Ghionane, Gavrancic, Sablic, Yussuf, Diogo Rincon, Leko, Husiev, El-Kaddouri, Kleber, Verpakovskis.

September 28

Kyiv Dynamo 4 (Diogo Rincon 30, 69, Cernat 74, 90)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Voronin 59, Nowotny 68)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 83,000. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Dynamo: Shovkovskyi - Ghioane (Husiev 57), Sablic, Gavrancic, El-Kaddouri, Rodolfo, Leko (Cernat 71), Yussuf, Diogo Rincon, Kleber, Verpakovskis (Shatskikh 59).
Leverkusen: Butt - Schneider, Nowotny, Juan, Placente (Babic 79), Ramelow, Freier (Jones 77), Ponte, Krzynowek, Berbatov, Franca (Voronin 54). *Sent off: Voronin 83min.*

Real Madrid 4 (Raul 39, 72, Figo pen 53, Roberto Carlos 80)
Roma 2 (De Rossi 3, Cassano 22)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)
Real Madrid: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Ivan Helguera, Samuel, Roberto Carlos, Celades (Guti 64), Figo, Beckham, Zidane, Raul (Pavon 82), Ronaldo (Raul Bravo 85).
Roma: Pelizzoli - Panucci, Dellas, Cufre, Candela (Sartor 60), Mancini, De Rossi (Hossam 75), Dacourt, Perrotta, Totti, Cassano.

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyiv Dynamo	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
B Leverkusen	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
Real Madrid	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
Roma	2	0	0	2	2	7	0

Tue, October 19
Leverkusen v Roma
Real Madrid v Kyiv Dynamo

Wed, November 3
Kyiv Dynamo v Real Madrid
Roma v Leverkusen

Tue, November 23
Kyiv Dynamo v Roma
Real Madrid v Leverkusen

Wed, December 8
Leverkusen v Kyiv Dynamo
Roma v Real Madrid

Group C

September 15

Ajax (Hol) 0
Juventus (Ita) 1 (Nedved 42)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 49,375. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
Ajax: Stekelenburg - Grygera (Escude 76), Heitinga, De Jong, Maxwell, Obodai (Anastasiou 72), Sneijder (De Mul 68), Van der Vaart, Pienaar, Sonck, Mitea.
Juventus: Buffon - Birindelli (Pessotto 66), Thuram, Cannavaro, Zambrotta, Camoranesi, Emerson, Blasi, Nedved (Olivera 66), Del Piero (Appiah 77), Ibrahimovic.

Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) 0
Bayern Munich (Ger) 1 (Makaay pen 64)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Bennett (Eng)
Maccabi: Strauber - Pantsil, Strool, Giovanini, Nagar, Reis (Dego 83), Mishaelof (Zitoni 61), T Cohen, L Cohen (Mbamba 73), Addo, Mesika.
Bayern: Kahn - Salihamidzic, Linke, Lucio, Rau, Deisler (Schweinsteiger 46), Frings, Hargreaves (Gorlitz 82), Ze Roberto, Ballack (Kovac 90), Makaay.

September 28

Bayern Munich 4 (Makaay 28, 44, pen 51, Ze Roberto 55)
Ajax 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)

Bayern: Kahn - Kuffour, Lucio, Linke, Salihamidzic, Hargreaves (Jeremies 80), Frings (Hashemian 80), Ballack, Ze Roberto, Makaay, Pizarro (Deisler 59).
Ajax: Lobont - De Jong, Heitinga (Escude 63), Grygera, Obodai, Galasek (Mitea 52), Sneijder, Maxwell, Van der Vaart, Rosales (De Ridder 70), Sonck.

Juventus 1 (Camoranesi 37)
Maccabi Tel Aviv 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Juventus: Buffon - Zebina, Thuram, Tudor, Zambrotta, Camoranesi, Emerson, Tacchinardi, Nedved, Ibrahimovic (Olivera 79), Trezeguet.
Maccabi: Strauber - Pantsil, Giovanini, Strool, Nagar, Reis, Mishaelof (Mbamba 76), T Cohen, Biton (Bounfeld 69), Mesika, Addo.

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Juventus	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Maccabi Tel Aviv	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
Ajax	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Tue, October 19
Ajax v Maccabi Tel Aviv
Juventus v Bayern Munich

Wed, November 3
Bayern Munich v Juventus
Maccabi Tel Aviv v Ajax

Tue, November 23
Bayern Munich v Maccabi Tel Aviv
Juventus v Ajax

Wed, December 8
Ajax v Bayern Munich
Maccabi Tel Aviv v Juventus

Group D

September 15

Fenerbahce (Tur) 1 (Van Hooijdonk 16)
Sparta Prague (Cze) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 41,000. **Ref:** Cortez Batista (Por)
Fenerbahce: Rustu - Deniz, Servet, Fabio Luciano, Umit, Serhat (Nobre 82), Marco Aurelio, Fabiano, Tuncay (Onder 78), Van Hooijdonk, Alex (Serkan 90). *Sent off: Servet 73min.*
Sparta: Blazek - Pergl, Kovac, Homola, Cech (Meduna 75), Baranek (Jun 60), Zelenka (Simak 46), Vorisek, Sivok, Urbanek, Pacanda.

Lyon (Fra) 2 (Cris 35, Frau 45)
Manchester United (Eng) 2 (Van Nistelrooy 56, 61)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 36,000. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Lyon: Coupet - Reveillere, Cacapa, Cris, Abidal, Wiltord (Clement 88), Juninho, Essien, Malouda, Frau (Nilmar 65), Govou (Ben Arfa 75).
Man Utd: Howard - O'Shea (P Neville 83), Silvestre, Brown, Heinze, Cristiano Ronaldo, Djemba Djemba, Keane, Giggs, Scholes, Van Nistelrooy (Smith 79).

September 28

Manchester United 6 (Giggs 7, Rooney 17, 28, 54, Van Nistelrooy 74, Bellion 81)
Fenerbahce 2 (Nobre 46, Tuncay 59)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 67,128. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)
Man Utd: Carroll - G Neville, Ferdinand, Silvestre, Heinze (P Neville 82), Bellion, Djemba Djemba, Kleberson, Giggs (Fletcher 63), Rooney, Van Nistelrooy (Miller 82).
Fenerbahce: Rustu - Fatih (Serhat 61), Fabio Luciano, Umit, Deniz, Serkan, Marco Aurelio, Nobre, Tuncay, Alex, Van Hooijdonk.

Sparta Prague 1 (Jun 7)
Lyon 2 (Essien 25, Wiltord 58)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 12,050. **Ref:** Dauden Ibanez (Spa)
Sparta: Blazek - Pergl, Homola, Kovac, Cech (Vorisek 46), Poborsky, Sivok, Zelenka (Baranek 82), Urbanek, Pacanda (Strihavka 60), Jun.
Lyon: Coupet - Reveillere, Cris, Cacapa, Berthod, Essien, Diarra, Juninho (Diatta 83), Govou (Nilmar 85), Wiltord (Frau 72), Malouda.

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	2	1	1	0	8	4	4
Lyon	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Fenerbahce	2	1	0	1	3	6	3
Sparta Prague	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Tue, October 19
Fenerbahce v Lyon
Sparta Prague v Manchester United

Wed, November 3
Lyon v Fenerbahce
Manchester United v Sparta Prague

Tue, November 23
Manchester United v Lyon
Sparta Prague v Fenerbahce

Wed, December 8
Fenerbahce v Manchester United
Lyon v Sparta Prague

Group E

September 14

Arsenal (Eng) 1 (Alex og 40)
PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 34,068. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)
Arsenal: Lehmann - Lauren, Cygan, Toure, Cole, Pires, Vieira, Gilberto Silva, Reyes (Edu 79), Bergkamp, Henry.
PSV: Zoetebier - Doijer, Bouma, Alex, Lee, Park, Vogel, Cocu (De Jong 83), Van Bommel, Beasley (Farfan 59), Sibon (Vennegoor of Hesselink 67).

Panathinaikos (Gre) 2 (Gonzalez 43, 79)
Rosenborg (Nor) 1 (F Johnsen 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Allaerts (Blg)
Panathinaikos: Galinovic - Morris, Goumas, Kyrgiakos, Munch, Mitu (Maric 73), Gonzalez, Basinas, Skacel (Konstantinidis 88), Papadopoulos, Constantinou (Andric 57).
Rosenborg: E Johnsen - Basma (Russell 24), Hoftun, Riseth, Dorsin, Solli (Brattbakk 85), Berg, Strand (Braaten 74), Winsnes, F Johnsen, Storflor.

September 29

PSV Eindhoven 1 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 80)
Panathinaikos 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 26,500. **Ref:** Plautz (Aut)
PSV: Gomes - Lucius, Alex, Bouma, Lee, Van Bommel, De Jong, Cocu, Park (Vogel 89), Vennegoor of Hesselink, Farfan (Sibon 63).
Panathinaikos: Chalkias - Vintra (Sapanis 84), Goumas, Kyrgiakos, Munch, Andric, Basinas, Papadopoulos (Morris 71), Gonzalez, Skacel (Epalle 59), Constantinou.

Rosenborg 1 (Strand 52)
Arsenal 1 (Ljungberg 6)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 21,100. **Ref:** Meyer (Ger)
Rosenborg: E Johnsen - Basma (Russell 74), Riseth, Hoftun, Dorsin, Strand (George 64), Solli, Winsnes, Brattbakk (Braaten 82), Storflor, F Johnsen.
Arsenal: Lehmann - Lauren, Campbell, Toure, Cole, Ljungberg, Vieira, Edu, Pires (Van Persie 82), Reyes, Henry.

GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
PSV	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Panathinaikos	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Rosenborg	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

Wed, October 20
Panathinaikos v Arsenal
Rosenborg v PSV

Tue, November 2
Arsenal v Panathinaikos
PSV v Rosenborg

Wed, November 24
PSV v Arsenal
Rosenborg v Panathinaikos

Tue, December 7
Arsenal v Rosenborg
Panathinaikos v PSV

Group F

September 14

Celtic (Sco) 1 (Sutton 59)
Barcelona (Spa) 3 (Deco 20, Giuly 77, Larsson 82)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 60,500. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Celtic: Marshall - Agathe, Balde, Varga, McNamara (Sylla 80), Petrov, Thompson, Lennon, Juninho (Sutton 46), Hartson (Valgaeren 63), Camara.
Barcelona: Victor Valdes - Belletti, Puyol, Marquez (Oleguer 63), Van Bronckhorst, Deco, Ronaldinho (Larsson 63), Gerard, Xavi, Giuly, Eto'o (Iniesta 74).

Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 0
Milan (Ita) 1 (Seedorf 84)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Fandel (Ger)
Shakhtar: Lastuvka - Barcauan, Duljaj (Aghahowa 86), Lewandowski, Rat, Srna, Tymoshchuk, Matuzalem, Vukic, Vorobei (Joao Batista 77), Marica. *Sent off: Srna 53min.*
Milan: Dida - Cafu, Nesta, Stam, Maldini, Gattuso (Dhorasoo 71), Pirlo (Rui Costa 76), Kaka, Seedorf, Tomasson (Crespo 63), Shevchenko.

September 29

Barcelona 3 (Deco 15, Ronaldinho pen 64, Eto'o 89)
Shakhtar Donetsk 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 64,000. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
Barcelona: Victor Valdes - Belletti, Puyol, Oleguer (Navarro 90), Van Bronckhorst, Xavi, Edmilson, Deco (Iniesta 83), Giuly (Larsson 75), Eto'o, Ronaldinho.
Shakhtar: Lastuvka - Stoican (Joao Batista 90), Barcauan, Lewandowski, Rat, Duljaj, Tymoshchuk, Vukic (Bakharev 75), Matuzalem, Brandao (Vorobei 46), Marica.

Milan 3 (Shevchenko 8, Inzaghi 89, Pirlo 90)
Celtic 1 (Varga 74)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Milan: Dida - Cafu, Nesta, Maldini, Pancaro, Gattuso (Rui Costa 87), Pirlo, Seedorf (Ambrosini 77), Kaka, Shevchenko, Tomasson (Inzaghi 77).
Celtic: Marshall - Valgaeren, Balde, Varga, Agathe, Thompson (Juninho 59), Sutton, Lennon, Petrov, Camara, Hartson (Sylla 86).

GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Milan	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Celtic	2	0	0	2	2	6	0
Shakhtar	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Wed, October 20
Milan v Barcelona
Shakhtar v Celtic

Tue, November 2
Barcelona v Milan
Celtic v Shakhtar

Wed, November 24
Barcelona v Celtic
Milan v Shakhtar

Tue, December 7
Celtic v Milan
Shakhtar v Barcelona

Group G

September 14

Internazionale (Ita) 2 (Adriano pen 34, 89)
Werder Bremen (Ger) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
Inter: Toldo - J Zanetti (Ze Maria 52), Cordoba, Materazzi, Favalli, Van der Meyde, Veron, Emre, Stankovic (Cambiasso 82), Vieri (Recoba 77), Adriano.
Werder: Reinke - Pasanen, Fahrenhorst, Ismael, Stalteri, Borowski, Micoud, Baumann (Magnin 36), Ernst, Klasnic (Haristeas 61), Haedo Valdez (Klose 81). *Sent off: Ismael 5min.*

Valencia (Spa) 2 (Vicente 16, Baraja 45)
Anderlecht (Blg) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Layec (Fra)
Valencia: Canizares - Curro Torres, Navarro, Marchena, Carboni, Angulo, Albelda (Sissoko 72), Baraja, Vicente, Aimar (Fiore 76), Rufete (Corradi 57).
Anderlecht: Zitka - Vanden Borre, Kompany, Traore, Deschacht, Wilhelmsson, Baseggio, Hasi (Zetterberg 55), Zewlakow (Lovre 80), Mpenza, Dindane.

September 29

Anderlecht 1 (Baseggio 90)
Internazionale 3 (Martins 9, Adriano 51, Stankovic 55)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
Anderlecht: Peersman - Vanden Borre, Kompany, Traore, Deschacht, Mpenza, Hasi (Baseggio 65), Zetterberg, Wilhelmsson, Dindane, Jestrovic (Iachtchouk 72).
Inter: Toldo - Ze Maria, Cordoba, Burdisso, Favalli (J Zanetti 51), Stankovic (Davids 70), Veron, Cambiasso, Emre, Martins, Adriano (Cruz 69).

Werder Bremen 2 (Klose 60, Haristeas 84)
Valencia 1 (Vicente 2)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 36,043. **Ref:** Riley (Eng)
Werder: Reinke - Stalteri, Schulz (Haristeas 61), Fahrenhorst, Magnin, Ernst, Borowski, Micoud, Klose, Haedo Valdez, Klasnic.
Valencia: Canizares - Curro Torres, Navarro, Marchena, Carboni, Angulo, Albelda, Baraja (Sissoko 74), Vicente (Moretti 79), Di Vaio (Pellegrino 57), Corradi. *Sent off: Marchena 55min.*

GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Werder Bremen	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Valencia	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Anderlecht	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Wed, October 20
Anderlecht v Werder Bremen
Valencia v Inter

Tue, November 2
Werder Bremen v Anderlecht
Inter v Valencia

Wed, November 24
Anderlecht v Valencia
Werder Bremen v Inter

Tue, December 7
Inter v Anderlecht
Valencia v Werder Bremen

Group H

September 14

Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 0
Chelsea (Eng) 3 (Terry 29, Drogba 45, 76)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)
PSG: Letizi - Mendy, Pierre-Fanfan, Helder, Armand, Coridon (Ljuboja 66), Mbami, Cana, Rothen (Ateba 84), Ogbeche (Pancrate 72), Pauleta.
Chelsea: Cech - Paulo Ferreira, Gallas, Terry, Bridge, Tiago, Lampard, Makelele, J Cole (Geremi 70), Gudjohnsen (Kezman 11), Drogba (Duff 81).

FC Porto (Por) 0
CSKA Moscow (Rus) 0
Att: 39,309. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Porto: Vitor Baia - Seitaridis, Jorge Costa, Pepe, Areias, Costinha, Diego, Maniche, Ricardo Quaresma (Hugo Leal 73), Helder Postiga (McCarthy 81), Carlos Alberto (Luis Fabiano 65).
CSKA: Akinfeev - Semberas, A Berezutsky, Zhirkov, Ignashevich, Odiah, Rahimic, Aldonin (V Berezutsky 89), Jarosik, Olic, Vagner Love (Semak 89).

September 29

Chelsea 3 (Smertin 7, Drogba 50, Terry 70)
FC Porto 1 (McCarthy 68)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 39,237. **Ref:** Fandel (Ger)
Chelsea: Cech - Paulo Ferreira, Ricardo Carvalho, Terry, Gallas, Smertin, Makelele, Lampard, Duff (Tiago 67), Gudjohnsen (Kezman 80), Drogba (Geremi 88).
Porto: Vitor Baia - Bosingwa, Jorge Costa, Pepe, Ricardo Costa, Costinha, Maniche, Diego, Ricardo Quaresma (Carlos Alberto 58), Luis Fabiano (McCarthy 58), Derlei (Helder Postiga 80).

CSKA Moscow 2 (Semak 64, Vagner Love pen 77)
Paris Saint-Germain 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Busacca (Swi)
CSKA: Akinfeev - Ignashevich, Semberas, A Berezutsky, Aldonin, Rahimic, Gusev (Kirichenko 70), Jarosik, Zhirkov, Olic (Semak 58), Vagner Love (V Berezutsky 90).
PSG: Letizi - Pierre-Fanfan, Helder, Badiane, Mendy, Cana, Cisse (Mbami 23), Armand, Coridon (Pancrate 75), Ljuboja (Reinaldo 81), Pauleta.

GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
CSKA Moscow	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
FC Porto	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
PSG	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Wed, October 20
Chelsea v CSKA Moscow
PSG v Porto

Tue, November 2
CSKA Moscow v Chelsea
Porto v PSG

Wed, November 24
Chelsea v PSG
CSKA Moscow v Porto

Tue, December 7
Porto v Chelsea
PSG v CSKA Moscow

Top two from each group qualify for knockout stages; third-placed sides enter UEFA Cup

1st knockout round

1st legs – February 22/23, 2005;
2nd legs – March 8/9

Quarter-finals

1st legs – April 5/6;
2nd legs – April 12/13

Semi-finals

1st legs – April 26/27;
2nd legs – May 3/4

Final

May 25 – Olympic stadium, Istanbul

UEFA CUP

1st rnd

1st legs – Sep 16; 2nd legs – Sep 30

AaB Aalborg (Den) v Auxerre (Fra)
1-1, 0-2 (agg 1-3)
Aigaleo (Gre) v Genclerbirligi (Tur)
1-0, 1-1 (agg 2-1)
Austria Wien (Aut) v Legia Warsaw (Pol)
1-0, 3-1 (agg 4-1)
Banska Bystrica (Slk) v Benfica (Por)
0-3, 0-2 (agg 0-5)
Bodo/Glimt (Nor) v Besiktas (Tur)
1-1, 0-1 (agg 1-2)
Club Brugge (Blg) v Chateauroux (Fra)
4-0, 2-1 (agg 6-1)
Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) v Elfsborg (Swe)
2-0, 0-0 (agg 2-0)
FH (Ice) v Alemannia Aachen (Ger)
1-5, 0-0 (agg 1-5)
Gorica (Sln) v AEK Athens (Gre)
1-1, 0-1 (agg 1-2)
Grazer AK (Aut) v Litex Lovech (Bul)
5-0, 0-1 (agg 5-1)
Hammarby (Swe) v Villarreal (Spa)
1-2, 0-3 (agg 1-5)
Hearts (Sco) v Sporting Braga (Por)
3-1, 2-2 (agg 5-3)
Levski Sofia (Bul) v Beveren (Blg)
1-1, 0-1 (agg 1-2)
Maccabi Haifa (Isr) v Dnipro (Ukr)
1-0, 0-2 (agg 1-2)
*Maccabi Petach Tikva (Isr) v Heerenveen (Hol)
0-5
Maritimo (Por) v Rangers (Sco)
1-0, 0-1 (agg 1-1; Rangers 4-2 on pens)
Metalurh Donetsk (Ukr) v Lazio (Ita)
0-3, 0-3 (agg 0-6)
Middlesbrough (Eng) v Banik Ostrava (Cze)
3-0, 1-1 (agg 4-1)
Millwall (Eng) v Ferencvaros (Hun)
1-1, 1-3 (agg 2-4)
Newcastle (Eng) v Hapoel Bnei Sakhnin (Isr)
2-0, 5-1 (agg 7-1)
Odd Grenland (Nor) v Feyenoord (Hol)
0-1, 1-4 (agg 1-5)
Panionios (Gre) v Udinese (Ita)
3-1, 0-1 (agg 3-2)
PAOK Salonika (Gre) v AZ Alkmaar (Hol)
2-3, 1-2 (agg 3-5)
Parma (Ita) v Maribor (Sln)
3-2, 0-0 (agg 3-2)
Partizan Belgrade (Ser) v Dinamo Bucharest (Rom)
3-1, 0-0 (agg 3-1)
Schalke (Ger) v Metalurgs Liepaja (Lat)
5-1, 4-0 (agg 9-1)
Sevilla (Spa) v Nacional (Por)
2-0, 2-1 (agg 4-1)
Shelbourne (Ire) v Lille (Fra)
2-2, 0-2 (agg 2-4)
Sochaux (Fra) v Stabaek (Nor)
4-0, 5-0 (agg 9-0)
Sporting Lisbon (Por) v Rapid Wien (Aut)
2-0, 0-0 (agg 2-0)
Standard Liege (Blg) v Bochum (Ger)
0-0, 1-1 (agg 1-1; Standard on away goals)
Steaua Bucharest (Rom) v CSKA Sofia (Bul)
2-1, 2-2 (agg 4-3)
Terek Grozny (Rus) v Basle (Swi)
1-1, 0-2 (agg 1-3)
Trabzonspor (Tur) v Athletic Bilbao (Spa)
3-2, 0-2 (agg 3-4)
Ujpest (Hun) v Stuttgart (Ger)
1-3, 0-4 (agg 1-7)
Utrecht (Hol) v Djurgardens (Swe)
4-0, 0-3 (agg 4-3)
Ventspils (Lat) v Amica Wronki (Pol)
1-1, 0-1 (agg 1-2)
Wisla Krakow (Pol) v Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo)
4-3, 1-2 (agg 5-5; Dinamo on away goals)
Zaragoza (Spa) v Sigma Olomouc (Cze)
1-0, 3-2 (agg 4-2)
Zenit St Petersburg (Rus) v Red Star Belgrade (Ser)
4-0, 2-1 (agg 6-1)
**Game decided over one leg (originally scheduled as the second leg) after the first leg was cancelled because of a strike by Israeli public sector employees. This grounded international air traffic, preventing Heerenveen flying to Israel*

Winners qualified for group stage

Group stage schedule

Group A

October 21
Feyenoord v Hearts
Schalke v Basle

November 4
Hearts v Schalke
Ferencvaros v Feyenoord

November 25
Basle v Hearts
Schalke v Ferencvaros

December 1
Ferencvaros v Basle
Feyenoord v Schalke

December 16
Basle v Feyenoord
Hearts v Ferencvaros

Group B

October 21
Athletic Bilbao v Parma
Steaua Bucharest v Standard Liege

November 4
Besiktas v Athletic Bilbao
Parma v Steaua Bucharest

November 25
Standard Liege v Parma
Steaua Bucharest v Besiktas

December 1
Athletic Bilbao v Steaua Bucharest
Besiktas v Standard Liege

December 16
Parma v Besiktas
Standard Liege v Athletic Bilbao

Group C

October 21
Dnipro v Club Brugge
Zaragoza v Utrecht

November 4
Austria Wien v Zaragoza
Utrecht v Dnipro

November 25
Club Brugge v Utrecht
Dnipro v Austria Wien

December 1
Austria Wien v Club Brugge
Zaragoza v Dnipro

December 16
Club Brugge v Zaragoza
Utrecht v Austria Wien

Group D

October 21
Dinamo Tbilisi v Sochaux
Panionios v Newcastle

November 4
Newcastle v Dinamo Tbilisi
Sporting Lisbon v Panionios

November 25
Dinamo Tbilisi v Sporting Lisbon
Sochaux v Newcastle

December 1
Panionios v Dinamo Tbilisi
Sporting Lisbon v Sochaux

December 16
Newcastle v Sporting Lisbon
Sochaux v Panionios

Group E

October 21
Aigaleo v Middlesbrough
Lazio v Villarreal

November 4
Middlesbrough v Lazio
Partizan Belgrade v Aigaleo

November 25
Lazio v Partizan Belgrade
Villarreal v Middlesbrough

December 2
Aigaleo v Lazio
Partizan Belgrade v Villarreal

December 15
Middlesbrough v Partizan Belgrade
Villarreal v Aigaleo

Group F

October 21
Amica Wronki v Rangers
Auxerre v Grazer AK

November 4
AZ Alkmaar v Auxerre
Grazer AK v Amica Wronki

November 25
Amica Wronki v AZ Alkmaar
Rangers v Grazer AK

December 2
Auxerre v Amica Wronki
AZ Alkmaar v Rangers

December 15
Grazer AK v AZ Alkmaar
Rangers v Auxerre

Group G

October 21
Benfica v Heerenveen
Beveren v Stuttgart

November 4
Dinamo Zagreb v Beveren
Stuttgart v Benfica

November 25
Benfica v Dinamo Zagreb
Heerenveen v Stuttgart

December 2
Beveren v Benfica
Dinamo Zagreb v Heerenveen

December 15
Heerenveen v Beveren
Stuttgart v Dinamo Zagreb

Group H

October 21
Alemannia Aachen v Lille
Zenit St Petersburg v AEK Athens

November 4
Lille v Zenit St Petersburg
Sevilla v Alemannia Aachen

November 25
AEK Athens v Lille
Zenit St Petersburg v Sevilla

December 2
Alemannia Aachen v Zenit St Petersburg
Sevilla v AEK Athens

December 15
AEK Athens v Alemannia Aachen
Lille v Sevilla

Top three from each group qualify for the knockout stages, where they will be joined by the third-placed sides from the eight Champions League groups

1st knockout round (last 32)

1st legs – February 16, 2005
2nd legs – February 24

2nd knockout round (last 16)

1st legs – March 10
2nd legs – March 17

Quarter-finals

1st legs – April 7
2nd legs – April 14

Semi-finals

1st legs – April 28
2nd legs – May 5

Final

May 18 – Jose Alvalade stadium, Lisbon

AUSTRIA

Sep 11: Bregenz 2 Mattersburg 1; Salzburg 1 Sturm Graz 0; Rapid Wien 2 Admira 1; Wacker Tirol 2 Pasching 1.
Sep 12: Grazer AK 0 Austria Wien 1.
Sep 18: Admira 0 Wacker Tirol 2; Mattersburg 5 Salzburg 3; Pasching 4 Bregenz 0.
Sep 19: Rapid Wien 2 Grazer AK 1; Sturm Graz 0 Austria Wien 2.
Sep 25: Grazer AK 2 Rapid Wien 2; Salzburg 2 Mattersburg 0; Wacker Tirol 0 Admira 2.
Sep 26: Bregenz 2 Pasching 3; Austria Wien 3 Sturm Graz 0.
Oct 2: Mattersburg 1 Sturm Graz 1.
Oct 3: Admira 0 Austria Wien 5; Grazer AK 2 Wacker Tirol 1; Rapid Wien 2 Bregenz 1; Pasching 2 Salzburg 1.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria Wien	11	7	3	1	28	6	24
Rapid Wien	11	7	3	1	23	10	24
Pasching	11	6	1	4	19	16	19
Grazer AK	11	6	1	4	13	11	19
Salzburg	11	4	3	4	16	15	15
Admira	11	5	0	6	17	17	15
Wacker Tirol	11	4	3	4	13	15	15
Mattersburg	11	3	2	6	14	19	11
Sturm Graz	11	2	2	7	6	15	8
Bregenz	11	1	2	8	10	35	5

BELGIUM

Saturday, September 11

FC Brussels 0
Westerlo 1 (Paas 60) Att: 5,000

Charleroi 0
Club Brugge 1 (Balaban 50) Att: 10,000

Gent 2 (Kalisa og 13, Jbari 79)
St Truiden 1 (Caers 82) Att: 7,000

Lierse 4 (De Roeck 11, Mitu 50, 75, Thompson 85)
Mons 1 (Babatunde 89) Att: 7,000

Ostende 1 (Landuyt 73)
Anderlecht 3 (Jestrovic pen 21, Dindane 49, Legear 90) Att: 10,000

Sunday, September 12

Cercle Brugge 2 (Masureel 62, Meyssen 76)
Germinal Beerschot 1 (Cavens 31) Att: 4,400

Genk 1 (Daerden 54)
Standard 1 (Bangoura 64) Att: 22,653

Lokeren 1 (Tailson 16)
La Louviere 0 Att: 4,300

Mouscron 1 (Dimbala 25)
Beveren 0 Att: 6,810

Friday, September 17

La Louviere 3 (Espartero 19, Matton 71, Ishiaku 79)
Mouscron 1 (Schaessens 17) Att: 4,000

Saturday, September 18

Anderlecht 5 (Zetterberg 25, Jestrovic 44, 52, 55, Dindane 88)
Lierse 1 (Mitu 47) Att: 23,812

Germinal Beerschot 2 (Cadu 55, 67)
FC Brussels 0 Att: 6,500

Mons 0
Charleroi 1 (Oulmers 72) Att: 5,000

St Truiden 0
Ostende 0 Att: 6,000

Westerlo 0
Genk 0 Att: 7,000

Sunday, September 19

Beveren 1 (Tokpa 27)
Gent 2 (Verschuere 44, Mamouni 53) Att: 5,000

Club Brugge 5 (Lange 44, Ceh 47, 54, Cornelis 82, Van Tornhout 88)
Cercle Brugge 0 Att: 25,625

Standard 1 (Bangoura 9)
Lokeren 0 Att: 15,000

Friday, September 24

FC Brussels 1 (Bruno 10)
Club Brugge 6 (Balaban 36, 54, 57, 79, Verheyen 40, Lange 48) Att: 6,500

Charleroi 2 (Oulmers 48, Macquet 86)
Anderlecht 1 (Deschacht 62) Att: 10,000

Saturday, September 25

Cercle Brugge 2 (Vlachos pen 8, Viane 89)
Mons 0 Att: 3,200

La Louviere 0
Standard 1 (Curbelo 40) Att: 7,099

Lokeren 3 (Gretarsson pen 8, Ademilson 42, Hendrikx 60)
Westerlo 1 (C Janssens 55) Att: 3,700

Mouscron 0
Gent 2 (Mamouni 47, Boussafa 77) Att: 6,193

Ostende 1 (Wallaeys 49)
Beveren 1 (Diabis 16) Att: 3,000

Sunday, September 26

Genk 2 (Daerden 2, Claessens 90)
Germinal Beerschot 1 (De Wree 47) Att: 21,308

Lierse 0
St Truiden 1 (Kimoto 81) Att: 7,000

Saturday, October 2

Anderlecht 5 (Wilhelmsson 20, Zetterberg pen 29, pen 32, Lovre 66, Iachtchouk 85)
Cercle Brugge 2 (Smet 8, Roiha 24)

Gent 2 (Coninck 5, Vrancken 58)
Ostende 1 (Nijs 44)

Germinal Beerschot 1 (Messoudi 78)
Lokeren 2 (Tailson 75, Hendrikx 85)

Mons 1 (Gousse 42)
FC Brussels 2 (Culek 53, Snelders 74)

St Truiden 2 (Kalisa 24, Ceulaer 82)
Charleroi 2 (Bangoura 75, Costa 80)

Sunday, October 3

Beveren 2 (Ne 41, Romaric pen 61)
Lierse 1 (Mitu pen 90)

Club Brugge 1 (Gvozdenovic 36)
Genk 1 (Kpaka 18)

Standard 2 (Bangoura 43, Walasiak 49)
Mouscron 0

Westerlo 0
La Louviere 2 (Djebbour 58, Espartero 71)

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	8	6	2	0	22	4	20
Anderlecht	8	6	0	2	19	9	18
La Louviere	8	5	1	2	15	7	16
Gent	8	5	0	3	10	12	15
Standard	8	4	2	2	11	8	14
Lokeren	8	4	2	2	11	8	14
Genk	8	3	4	1	7	6	13
Charleroi	8	4	1	3	10	11	13
Mouscron	8	3	2	3	9	8	11
Westerlo	8	3	2	3	9	11	11
Cercle Brugge	8	3	1	4	12	19	10
Germinal B	8	3	0	5	10	9	9
Beveren	8	2	3	3	8	9	9
Lierse	8	2	1	5	10	13	7
FC Brussels	8	2	1	5	7	14	7
St Truiden	8	1	3	4	5	11	6
Mons	8	1	2	5	7	13	5
Ostende	8	0	3	5	7	17	3

LEADING GOALSCORERS

7 Bosko Balaban (Club Brugge)
6 Cadu (Germinal Beerschot)
5 Tosin Dosunmu (Westerlo)

BULGARIA

Sep 10: CSKA 6 Spartak Varna 0.
Sep 11: Belasitsa 0 Levski 1; Nesebar 0 Naftex 0; Rodopa 2 Beroe 1; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 4 Lokomotiv Sofia 0; Marek 2 Vidima-Rakovski 2; Lovech 1 Slavia 1; Pirin 3 Cherno More 0.
Sep 17: Lokomotiv Sofia 2 Rodopa 1.
Sep 18: Cherno More 2 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0; Slavia 3 Naftex 0; Spartak Varna 2 Nesebar 1; Vidima-Rakovski 1 Belasitsa 1.
Sep 19: Beroe 1 CSKA 3; Levski 4 Pirin 0; Lovech 3 Marek 0.
Sep 25: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2 Levski 2; Marek 0 Slavia 2; Nesebar 2 Beroe 1; Pirin 1 Vidima-Rakovski 1; Rodopa 2 Cherno More 3; CSKA 5 Lokomotiv Sofia 1; Belasitsa 1 Lovech 0; Naftex 5 Spartak Varna 1.
Oct 1: Slavia 2 Spartak Varna 1.
Oct 2: Beroe 1 Naftex 1; Lokomotiv Sofia 0 Nesebar 0; Marek 1 Belasitsa 0.
Oct 3: Cherno More 1 CSKA 2; Lovech 4 Pirin 2; Vidima-Rakovski 1 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2; Levski 5 Rodopa 1.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	8	8	0	0	30	4	24
Levski	8	7	1	0	21	5	22
Lovech	8	5	1	2	15	7	16
Slavia	8	5	1	2	14	10	16
Lok Plovdiv	8	4	2	2	19	9	14
Belasitsa	8	3	1	4	7	8	10
Marek	8	3	1	4	10	15	10
Cherno More	8	3	0	5	12	14	9
Pirin	8	2	3	3	8	11	9
Naftex	8	2	3	3	8	11	9
Rodopa	8	3	0	5	8	14	9
Beroe	8	2	2	4	8	10	8
Nesebar	8	2	2	4	7	16	8
Vidima-Rakovski	8	1	3	4	8	12	6
Lok Sofia*	8	2	2	4	7	15	5
Spartak Varna	8	1	0	7	5	26	3

**3pts deducted for non-payment of wages*

CROATIA

Sep 11: Slaven 2 Medimurje 0; Zadar 2 Zagreb 1; Kamen Ingrad 1 Pula 0; Dinamo 3 Hajduk 0; Osijek 2 Inter 0; Varteks 2 Rijeka 0.
Sep 18: Pula 0 Rijeka 0; Inter 3 Varteks 2; Hajduk 1 Osijek 1; Kamen Ingrad 2 Slaven 0; Medimurje 4 Zadar 0.
Sep 19: Zagreb 2 Dinamo 1.
Sep 25: Slaven 1 Pula 0; Zadar 2 Kamen Ingrad 1; Varteks 0 Hajduk 4; Dinamo 4 Medimurje 1; Osijek 1 Zagreb 1; Rijeka 2 Inter 0.
Oct 2: Pula 1 Inter 1; Hajduk 2 Rijeka 0; Zagreb 0 Varteks 1; Medimurje 2 Osijek 2; Slaven 1 Zadar 0.
Oct 4: Kamen Ingrad 0 Dinamo 0.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	10	7	1	2	14	7	22
Rijeka	10	5	3	2	13	7	18
Hajduk	10	5	2	3	19	11	17
Kamen Ingrad	10	5	1	4	16	11	16
Slaven	10	5	1	4	8	12	16
Dinamo	10	3	5	2	18	13	14
Varteks	10	4	1	5	19	19	13
Osijek	10	3	4	3	12	15	13
Pula	10	2	5	3	11	10	11
Zagreb	10	3	1	6	11	15	10
Zadar	10	3	0	7	11	23	9
Medimurje	10	2	2	6	12	21	8

CZECH REPUBLIC

Sep 3: Liberec 3 Chmel Blsany 0.
Sep 11: Sparta 2 Ceske Budejovice 0; Olomouc 3 Pribram 0; Ostrava 1 Chmel Blsany 0; Brno 2 Opava 1; Mlada Boleslav 1 Slavia 1.
Sep 12: Jablonec 1 Teplice 1; Drnovice 1 Slovacko 0.
Sep 13: Zlin 1 Liberec 0.
Sep 18: Teplice 1 Slovacko 1; Opava 4 Jablonec 1; Ceske Budejovice 1 Brno 1; Slavia 2 Drnovice 1.
Sep 19: Chmel Blsany 2 Mlada Boleslav 0; Liberec 0 Sparta 1.
Sep 20: Pribram 1 Ostrava 2; Zlin 0 Olomouc 2.
Sep 24: Sparta 4 Pribram 2.
Sep 25: Jablonec 1 Slavia 1; Slovacko 1 Opava 0; Olomouc 1 Chmel Blsany 0; Ostrava 3 Zlin 1.
Sep 26: Drnovice 2 Ceske Budejovice 0; Mlada Boleslav 0 Liberec 1.
Sep 27: Brno 1 Teplice 3.
Oct 2: Zlin 1 Sparta 1; Ceske Budejovice 0 Jablonec 1; Liberec 1 Brno 0; Opava 0 Teplice 0; Slavia 0 Slovacko 0.
Oct 3: Pribram 2 Mlada Boleslav 1.
Oct 4: Chmel Blsany 1 Drnovice 1; Olomouc 2 Ostrava 2.

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta	8	6	2	0	20	8	20
Teplice	8	4	4	0	11	6	16
Olomouc	8	5	1	2	12	8	16
Liberec	8	5	0	3	10	3	15
Ostrava	8	4	3	1	13	8	15
Brno	8	4	1	3	7	9	13
Slavia	8	3	3	2	9	6	12
Jablonec	8	2	3	3	6	9	9
Zlin	8	2	3	3	5	8	9
Opava	8	2	2	4	10	13	8
Pribram	8	2	2	4	7	13	8
Drnovice	8	2	1	5	8	10	7
Ceske Budejovice	8	1	2	5	5	10	5
Chmel Blsany	8	1	2	5	4	10	5
Mlada Boleslav	8	1	2	5	4	11	5
Slovacko*	8	3	3	2	5	4	0

**12pts deducted for the club's part in a bribery scandal*

DENMARK

Sep 11: Randers 0 FC Copenhagen 0.
Sep 12: AGF 1 Viborg 2; Herfolge 0 Midtjylland 1; Nordsjaelland 2 Esbjerg 1; Silkeborg 1 OB 2; AaB 1 Brondby 1.
Sep 18: Midtjylland 2 Silkeborg 1.
Sep 19: OB 4 Nordsjaelland 0; AGF 2 Herfolge 0; Viborg 0 Randers 1; Esbjerg 1 AaB 0; FC Copenhagen 1 Brondby 3.
Sep 22: Midtjylland 1 Viborg 1; FC Copenhagen 2 AGF 1; Brondby 0 Nordsjaelland 0; Silkeborg 2 Herfolge 4; AaB 3 Randers 0; Esbjerg 2 OB 4.
Sep 25: Herfolge 1 Brondby 4.
Sep 26: OB 1 AaB 3; Randers 4 Silkeborg 3; Nordsjaelland 1 FC Copenhagen 2; AGF 3 Midtjylland 1; Viborg 2 Esbjerg 0.
Oct 2: FC Copenhagen 2 Herfolge 0.
Oct 3: OB 0 Viborg 2; Esbjerg 1 AGF 2; Midtjylland 1 Nordsjaelland 1; Brondby 2 Randers 0; AaB 1 Silkeborg 0.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brondby	10	6	3	1	16	6	21
AGF	10	5	2	3	17	11	17
Viborg	10	5	2	3	12	9	17
Midtjylland	10	5	2	3	14	14	17
OB	10	5	1	4	20	15	16
FC Copenhagen	10	4	4	2	17	15	16
AaB	10	4	1	5	15	12	13
Nordsjaelland	10	3	3	4	11	15	12
Esbjerg	9	3	1	5	18	16	10
Silkeborg	10	3	1	6	17	20	10
Herfolge	10	3	1	6	10	21	10
Randers	9	2	1	6	7	20	7

ENGLAND

Saturday, September 11

Aston Villa 0
Chelsea 0 Att: 36,691

Bolton 2 (Nolan 52, Ferdinand 90)
Manchester Utd 2 (Heinze 43, Bellion 90) Att: 27,666

Fulham 0
Arsenal 3 (Ljungberg 62, Knight og 65, Reyes 71) Att: 21,681

Liverpool 3 (Gerrard 16, Finnan 42, Luis Garcia 60)
West Bromwich 0 Att: 42,947

Manchester City 0
Everton 1 (Cahill 60) Att: 47,006

Middlesbrough 2 (Viduka 29, 49)
Birmingham 1 (Heskey 42) Att: 30,252

Newcastle 3 (Flitcroft og 9, Shearer 16, O'Brien 83)
Blackburn 0 Att: 52,015

Portsmouth 3 (Fuller 3, Berger 47, Popovic og 85)
Crystal Palace 1 (Granville 43) Att: 20,019

Sunday, September 12

Tottenham 0
Norwich 0 Att: 36,095

Monday, September 13

Charlton 0
Southampton 0 Att: 24,263

Saturday, September 18

Arsenal 2 (Henry 30, Pires 66)
Bolton 2 (Jaidi 63, Pedersen 85) Att: 37,010

Birmingham 1 (Yorke 68)
Charlton 1 (Young 49) Att: 27,400

Blackburn 1 (Jansen 75)
Portsmouth 0 Att: 20,647

Crystal Palace 1 (Johnson pen 77)
Manchester City 2 (Anelka 58, pen 64) Att: 25,052

Norwich 0
Aston Villa 0 Att: 23,805

West Bromwich 1 (Kanu 88)
Fulham 1 (Cole 72) Att: 24,128

Sunday, September 19

Chelsea 0
Tottenham 0 Att: 42,246

Everton 1 (Bent 47)
Middlesbrough 0 Att: 34,078

Southampton 1 (A Svensson 53)
Newcastle 2 (Prutton og 45, Carr 57) Att: 30,709

Monday, September 20

Manchester United 2 (Silvestre 20, 66)
Liverpool 1 (O'Shea og 54) Att: 67,857

Saturday, September 25

Aston Villa 1 (Hendrie 36)
Crystal Palace 1 (Johnson 6) Att: 34,843

Bolton 1 (Jaidi 16)
Birmingham 1 (Izzet 49) Att: 23,692

Fulham 1 (Radzinski 24)
Southampton 0 Att: 19,237

Liverpool 3 (Baros 23, Luis Garcia 26, Cisse 64)
Norwich 0 Att: 43,152

Manchester City 0
Arsenal 1 (Cole 14) Att: 47,015

Middlesbrough 0
Chelsea 1 (Drogba 81) Att: 32,341

Newcastle 3 (Kluivert 70, Milner 78, Shearer 85)
West Bromwich 1 (Horsfield 87) Att: 52,308

Tottenham 0
Manchester Utd 1 (Van Nistelrooy pen 42) Att: 36,103

Sunday, September 26

Portsmouth 0
Everton 1 (Cahill 81) Att: 20,125

Monday, September 27

Charlton 1 (El-Karkouri 49)
Blackburn 0 Att: 26,193

Saturday, October 2

Arsenal 4 (Ljungberg 33, Henry 48, 69, Reyes 70)
Charlton 0 Att: 38,103

Blackburn 2 (Ferguson 30, Emerton 63)
Aston Villa 2 (Angel 25, Mellberg 80) Att: 20,502

Everton 0
Tottenham 1 (Pamarot 53) Att: 38,264

Norwich 2 (Huckerby 63, Charlton 67)
Portsmouth 2 (Aiyegbeni 37, Berger 65) Att: 23,853

Southampton 0
Manchester City 0 Att: 28,605

West Bromwich 2 (Kanu 57, Gera 65)
Bolton 1 (Giannakopoulos 73) Att: 23,849

Sunday, October 3

Birmingham 2 (Yorke 23, Upson 57)
Newcastle 2 (Jenas 3, Butt 67) Att: 29,021

Chelsea 1 (J Cole 64)
Liverpool 0 Att: 42,028

Manchester Utd 1 (Smith 81)
Middlesbrough 1 (Downing 33) Att: 67,988

Monday, October 4

Crystal Palace 2 (Johnson 53, Riihilahti 69)
Fulham 0 Att: 21,825

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	8	7	1	0	26	7	22
Chelsea	8	6	2	0	8	1	20
Everton	8	5	1	2	9	7	16
Man Utd	8	3	4	1	9	7	13
Tottenham	8	3	4	1	5	3	13
Newcastle	8	3	3	2	16	13	12
Bolton	8	3	3	2	13	11	12
Aston Villa	8	2	5	1	10	9	11
Middlesbrough	8	3	2	3	12	12	11
Charlton	8	3	2	3	8	14	11
Liverpool	7	3	1	3	10	6	10
Man City	8	2	2	4	8	7	8
Portsmouth	7	2	2	3	11	11	8
Fulham	8	2	2	4	8	13	8
Birmingham	8	1	4	3	7	9	7
West Bromwich	8	1	4	3	8	13	7
Blackburn	8	1	3	4	7	14	6
Southampton	8	1	2	5	6	11	5
Crystal Palace	8	1	2	5	8	14	5
Norwich	8	0	5	3	7	14	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS
7 Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
6 Jose Antonio Reyes (Arsenal)
5 Nicolas Anelka (Manchester City)
5 Andrew Johnson (Crystal Palace)

FAROE ISLANDS

FAROE ISLANDS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HB	18	12	5	1	47	18	41
B36	18	10	4	4	37	21	34
Skala	18	9	3	6	32	23	30
KI	18	6	8	4	25	24	26
EB/Streymur	18	7	4	7	30	25	25
NSI	18	7	4	7	28	25	25
VB	18	7	4	7	27	24	25
GI	18	6	5	7	31	35	23
IF	18	3	3	12	25	51	12
B68	18	2	2	14	19	55	8

FRANCE

Saturday, September 11

Bastia 1 (Yahia 31)
Auxerre 0 Att: 5,817

Caen 1 (Mazure 58)
Lens 0 Att: 19,827

Istres 1 (Saifi 2)
Paris SG 1 (Pauleta pen 61) Att: 10,512

Lille 0
Nice 0 Att: 9,279

Metz 0
Bordeaux 0 Att: 25,255

Monaco 3 (Adebayor 4, Kallon pen 58, Saviola 87)
Strasbourg 1 (Pagis 41) Att: 7,000

Rennes 1 (Dudu Cearense 90)
Lyon 2 (Nilmar 81, 87) Att: 23,273

Saint-Etienne 0
Nantes 0 Att: 30,319

Toulouse 3 (Taider 10, Eduardo 86, Arribage 88)
Ajaccio 1 (Marcelinho Carioca 22) Att: 17,070

Sunday, September 12

Sochaux 2 (Mathieu 37, Santos 62)
Marseille 0 Att: 19,931

Saturday, September 18

Ajaccio 1 (Waldir Lucas Pereira 90)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Feindouno 42) Att: 4,000

Bordeaux 0
Rennes 0 Att: 19,761

Lyon 0
Bastia 0 Att: 33,268

Marseille 1 (Luyindula 35)
Toulouse 0 Att: 59,000

Nantes 1 (Savinaud 54)
Istres 0 Att: 28,115

Strasbourg 2 (Abdessadki 13, Le Pen 72)
Lens 2 (Cousin 33, Carriere 87) Att: 13,138

Sunday, September 19

Auxerre 4 (Mwaruwari 6, 20, Kalou 24, Mathis 68)
Metz 0 Att: 7,000

Lille 2 (Acimovic 24, Brunel 90)
Caen 0 Att: 10,426

Nice 2 (Vahirua 26, Agali 48)
Sochaux 1 (Boudarene 13) Att: 10,094

Paris SG 0
Monaco 1 (Adebayor 83) Att: 40,039

Tuesday, September 21

Toulouse 0
Lyon 2 (Essien 52, Malouda 90) Att: 30,616

Wednesday, September 22

Bastia 1 (Nee 32)
Bordeaux 4 (Laslandes 33, 37, Faubert 39, Chamakh 82) Att: 5,719

Caen 0
Strasbourg 0 Att: 18,988

Istres 0
Ajaccio 1 (Chapuis 24) Att: 5,573

Lens 2 (Bak 82, Hilton 86)
Paris SG 2 (Cana 45, Pancrate 77) Att: 36,649

Metz 1 (Tum 80)
Nice 1 (Cobos 90) Att: 15,491

Monaco 2 (Farnerud 47, Kallon pen 90)
Nantes 1 (Bratu 45) Att: 8,893

Rennes 1 (Frei 58)
Marseille 0 Att: 26,264

Saint-Etienne 3 (Ilunga 3, Marin 15, 38)
Auxerre 1 (Mathis 90) Att: 23,649

Sochaux 0
Lille 2 (Potillon og 52, Brunel pen 90) Att: 11,905

Saturday, September 25

Ajaccio 2 (Waldir Lucas Pereira 14, 46)
Caen 2 (Watier 30, Lemaitre 81) Att: 2,366

Auxerre 0
Istres 0 Att: 7,656

Bordeaux 1 (Chamakh 60)
Toulouse 1 (Moreira 88) Att: 24,318

Lille 4 (Acimovic pen 17, Moussilou 51, Pompiere og 71, Audel 80)
Metz 0 Att: 10,000

Lyon 0
Monaco 0 Att: 38,825

Marseille 1 (Batiles 78)
Bastia 0 Att: 50,753

Nice 2 (Roudet 2, Vahirua pen 25)
Rennes 0 Att: 12,163

Paris SG 1 (Pauleta 79)
Strasbourg 0 Att: 32,952

Sochaux 2 (Isabey 6, Oruma 79)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Piquionne 33) Att: 18,961

Sunday, September 26

Nantes 1 (Pujol 59)
Lens 0 Att: 26,716

Saturday, October 2

Bastia 1 (Hadji 17)
Paris SG 2 (Pancrate 28, Reinaldo 29) Att: 11,000

Caen 1 (Mazure 22)
Bordeaux 1 (Meriem 61) Att: 20,843

Istres 0
Marseille 2 (Bamogo 16, N'Diaye 48) Att: 14,500

Lens 1 (Diarra 1)
Ajaccio 1 (Pereira 17) Att: 34,700

Monaco 3 (Saviola 5, Adebayor 21, 60)
Nice 4 (Agali 67, 72, 75, Vahirua 83) Att: 16,500

Strasbourg 0
Nantes 2 (Bagayoko 34, Toulalan 90) Att: 12,757

Sunday, October 3

Metz 0
Sochaux 0 Att: 16,900

Rennes 0
Lille 1 (Moussilou 65) Att: 21,000

Saint-Etienne 2 (Ilunga 47, Feindouno 60)
Lyon 3 (Juninho 34, 88, Govou 90) Att: 34,793

Toulouse 1 (Moreira pen 32)
Auxerre 2 (Pieroni 60, 71) Att: 26,433

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lille	9	6	1	2	12	4	19
Lyon	9	5	4	0	11	5	19
Monaco	9	5	2	2	13	9	17
Auxerre	9	5	1	3	13	9	16
Marseille	9	5	1	3	10	7	16
Bordeaux	9	3	5	1	13	5	14
Metz	9	3	4	2	8	12	13
Toulouse	9	3	3	3	13	11	12
Nantes	9	3	3	3	8	7	12
Nice	9	3	3	3	12	14	12
Bastia	9	3	3	3	8	10	12
Lens	9	2	5	2	11	8	11
Caen	9	2	5	2	8	9	11
Sochaux	9	3	2	4	8	10	11
Rennes	9	3	2	4	7	10	11
Paris SG	9	2	4	3	12	13	10
Saint-Etienne	9	1	4	4	10	14	7
Ajaccio	9	1	4	4	8	12	7
Istres	9	0	4	5	4	11	4
Strasbourg	9	0	4	5	7	16	4

LEADING GOALSCORERS
5 Marouane Chamakh (Bordeaux)
5 Alexander Frei (Rennes)

GERMANY

Saturday, September 11

Bayern Munich 1 (Makaay 26)
Arminia Bielefeld 0 Att: 48,000

Bochum 2 (Kalla 15, Demel og 75)
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Koller 48, Ewerthon 59) Att: 32,645

Mainz 2 (N Weiland 65, Auer 68)
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 19,500

Monchengladbach 3 (Heinz 12, Neuville 53, Ivic 90)
Werder Bremen 1 (Haedo Valdez 69) Att: 52,100

Nurnberg 0
Hertha 0 Att: 30,891

Stuttgart 2 (Meissner 16, Szabics 90)
Hamburg 0 Att: 45,000

Wolfsburg 3 (Hristov 31, 41, Klimowicz 90)
Schalke 0 Att: 25,000

Sunday, September 12

Hannover 2 (Stajner 2, 8)
Freiburg 2 (Dorn 59, Cairo 73) Att: 32,447

Hansa Rostock 2 (Allback 71, 90)
Kaiserslautern 3 (Drescher 42, Riedl 44, Altintop 56) Att: 19,000

Saturday, September 18

Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Buckley 64)
Mainz 1 (Azaouagh 82) Att: 15,364

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Butt pen 76, Berbatov 80)
Nurnberg 2 (S Muller 23, Placente og 69) Att: 22,500

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Ewerthon 44, pen 68)
Bayern Munich 2 (Lucio 88, Makaay 90) Att: 83,000

Hansa Rostock 1 (Madsen 33)
Wolfsburg 2 (Klimowicz 17, Thiam 78) Att: 15,000

Kaiserslautern 2 (Zandi pen 18, Engelhardt 55)
Hamburg 1 (Wicky 64) Att: 32,502

Schalke 3 (Pander 35, Varela 59, Sand 66)
Monchengladbach 2 (Korzynietz 5, Neuville 49) Att: 61,000

Werder Bremen 3 (Ismael pen 20, Micoud 78, Klose 88)
Hannover 0 Att: 40,100

Sunday, September 19

Freiburg 1 (Schumann 58)
Bochum 1 (Bechman 55) Att: 21,500

Hertha 0
Stuttgart 0 Att: 45,349

Saturday, September 25

Bayern Munich 3 (Makaay 19, Frings 45, Ballack 72)
Freiburg 1 (Sanou 3) Att: 47,000

Bochum 1 (Knavs 68)
Werder Bremen 4 (Borovski 54, Klose 70, 88, 89) Att: 25,110

Hannover 1 (Mathis 83)
Schalke 0 Att: 35,000

Monchengladbach 2 (Neuville 19, 30)
Hansa Rostock 2 (Di Salvo 53, 59) Att: 42,600

Nurnberg 1 (Kiessling 76)
Arminia Bielefeld 2 (Vata 18, Owomoyela 64) Att: 17,960

Stuttgart 3 (Lahm 12, Stranzl 42, Meissner pen 90)
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 35,000

Wolfsburg 2 (Petrov 13, Klimowicz 90)
Kaiserslautern 1 (Jancker 82) Att: 20,000

Sunday, September 26

Hamburg 2 (Takahara 3, 80)
Hertha 1 (Muller 11) Att: 43,169

Mainz 1 (Auer 56)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Koller 9) Att: 20,300

Tuesday, September 28

Hannover 0
Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Buckley 79) Att: 31,248

Saturday, October 2

Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Krzynowek 10, Juan 73, Berbatov 86)
Hamburg 0 Att: 22,000

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Koller 28, 45)
Nurnberg 2 (Mintal 23, Vittek 25) Att: 73,500

Freiburg 1 (Tskitishvili 69)
Mainz 2 (Gerber 22, Rose 90) Att: 22,000

Hansa Rostock 1 (Tjikuzu 89)
Hannover 3 (Leandro 14, Barnetta 23, Stendel 85) Att: 16,700

Kaiserslautern 0
Hertha 2 (Kovac 18, Muller 47) Att: 30,696

Werder Bremen 1 (Klose 81)
Bayern Munich 2 (Ballack 20, Schweinsteiger 75) Att: 42,100

Wolfsburg 2 (D'Alessandro 13, Schnoor 42)
Monchengladbach 1 (Neuville 16) Att: 24,000

Sunday, October 3

Arminia Bielefeld 0
Stuttgart 2 (Babbel 43, Cacau 90) Att: 22,800

Schalke 3 (Asamoah 10, Kobiashvili 13, Lincoln 44)
Bochum 2 (Misimovic 50, Kalla 65) Att: 61,524

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wolfsburg	7	6	0	1	13	6	18
Stuttgart	7	5	2	0	15	5	17
Bayern Munich	7	4	2	1	12	9	14
Werder Bremen	7	4	0	3	15	8	12
Mainz	7	3	3	1	11	9	12
B Leverkusen	7	3	2	2	13	11	11
Schalke	7	3	0	4	8	12	9
Hertha	7	1	5	1	7	6	8
B Dortmund	7	1	5	1	12	12	8
Hannover	7	2	2	3	8	10	8
Arminia Bielefeld	7	2	2	3	5	7	8
Nurnberg	7	1	4	2	12	12	7
Freiburg	7	1	4	2	7	9	7
Bochum	7	1	4	2	12	15	7
M'gladbach	7	1	3	3	11	12	6
Kaiserslautern	7	2	0	5	10	15	6
Hamburg	7	2	0	5	8	15	6
Hansa Rostock	7	1	2	4	8	14	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS

6 Miroslav Klose (Werder Bremen)
6 Oliver Neuville (Monchengladbach)
5 Dimitar Berbatov (Bayer Leverkusen)
5 Cacau (Stuttgart)
5 Ewerthon (Borussia Dortmund)
5 Jan Koller (Borussia Dortmund)

GREECE

Sep 18: Ergotelis 0 Iraklis 1; Xanthi 3 Aris 1.
Sep 19: Kalamaria 1 OFI 0; Aigaleo 1 AEK 1; PAOK 1 Kerkira 0; Halkidona 1 Panionios 0; Olympiakos 2 Kallithea 1; Panathinaikos 3 Ionikos 0.
Sep 25: Iraklis 1 Halkidona 0; Aris 0 Olympiakos 1; Panathinaikos 3 Xanthi 1.
Sep 26: Kallithea 3 Ergotelis 0; Ionikos 2 Kalamaria 0; OFI 0 Aigaleo 1; Panionios 2 PAOK 0; AEK 2 Kerkira 0.
Oct 2: Kerkira 1 OFI 1; Halkidona 4 Kallithea 2.
Oct 3: Xanthi 2 Olympiakos 1; Ergotelis 1 Aris 1; Kalamaria 0 Panathinaikos 1; Aigaleo 1 Ionikos 0; AEK 2 Panionios 0; PAOK 1 Iraklis 0.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
AEK	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Aigaleo	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Halkidona	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Xanthi	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Olympiakos	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Iraklis	3	2	0	1	2	1	6
PAOK	3	2	0	1	2	2	6
Kallithea	3	1	0	2	6	6	3
Panionios	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
Ionikos	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Kalamaria	3	1	0	2	1	3	3
OFI	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Aris	3	0	1	2	2	5	1
Kerkira	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
Ergotelis	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

HOLLAND

Friday, September 10

AZ 5 (El Khattabi 19, Perez 24, 30, Landzaat 57, Huysegems 83)
Den Bosch 0 Att: 7,935

Saturday, September 11

Heerenveen 2 (Samaras 85, Yildirim 90)
De Graafschap 0 Att: 17,300

PSV 1 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 46)
RKC 0 Att: 32,500

RBC 4 (Ikedia 55, Smolders 57, 67, Dingsdag og 72)
Vitesse 1 (Amoah 17) Att: 4,900

Willem II 3 (Bobson 5, 25, Redan 63)
Roda JC 1 (Cisse 54) Att: 12,300

Sunday, September 12

Den Haag 3 (Van der Gun 44, Den Ouden pen 68, Stroeve 83)
Ajax 3 (Sonck 7, Pienaar 14, Boukhari 30) Att: 8,412

Feyenoord 3 (Ono 44, Kalou 53, 78)
Twente 1 (Zomer 38) Att: 38,000

Groningen 2 (Matthijs 20, Salmon 81)
NAC 3 (Zonneveld 24, Slot 45, Boussaboun 88) Att: 10,700

Utrecht 1 (Van de Haar 51)
NEC 0 Att: 18,750

Friday, September 17

Den Haag 0
Vitesse 4 (Janssen 42, 58, Gluscevic 81, Amoah 88) Att: 6,520

Saturday, September 18

De Graafschap 2 (Duits 52, Zongo 59)
Groningen 2 (Van der Kruis og 71, Pinas 75) Att: 11,000

Heerenveen 3 (Huntelaar 30, 57, Selakovic 63)
NAC 0 Att: 17,400

NEC 0
PSV 3 (Van Bommel pen 29, Lamey 72, Vonlanthen 90) Att: 12,000

RKC 2 (Fuchs 43, Hoogendorp 70)
RBC 0 Att: 5,400

Twente 0
Willem II 0 Att: 13,000

Sunday, September 19

Den Bosch 0
Ajax 5 (Sneijder 13, Van der Vaart 42, 89, Grygera 58, De Jong 73) Att: 7,280

Feyenoord 0
Utrecht 3 (Schut 31, Somers 88, Broerse 90) Att: 36,000

Roda JC 1 (Sergio 80)
AZ 1 (Landzaat 1) Att: 11,400

Saturday, September 25

Ajax 1 (Anastasiou 88)
Roda JC 0 Att: 48,370

AZ 3 (Perez 2, Van Galen 12, Landzaat 81)
Willem II 1 (Reuser 8) Att: 8,149

PSV 4 (Lucius 49, Farfan 57, Vennegoor of Hesselink 63, 74)
Heerenveen 0 Att: 31,000

RBC 0
Feyenoord 4 (Kalou 6, 61, Goor 33, Kuijt 66) Att: 5,000

Vitesse 0
Den Bosch 0 Att: 18,765

Sunday, September 26

De Graafschap 0
Twente 0 Att: 11,000

Groningen 0
NEC 0 Att: 10,889

NAC 0
RKC 4 (Fuchs 7, Putter 9, Hoogendorp 19, Krohn-Dehli 65) Att: 11,920

Utrecht 2 (Schut 41, Tanghe 49)
Den Haag 0 Att: 19,164

Friday, October 1

NEC 3 (Barreto 13, 20, Boutahar 28)
RBC 0 Att: 11,000

Saturday, October 2

NAC 3 (Cornelisse 10, Boussaboun 22, Penders 44)
De Graafschap 2 (Loval 38, 89) Att: 12,800

PSV 3 (Elshot og 5, Beasley 32, De Jong 65)
Groningen 0 Att: 30,500

Twente 2 (N'Kufo 8, 76)
Roda JC 3 (Sergio 15, Cristiano 38, Van Dijk pen 62) Att: 13,100

Willem II 3 (Reuser 14, pen 30, pen 43)
Vitesse 2 (Hofs 82, Gluscevic 90) Att: 12,300

Sunday, October 3

AZ 0
Ajax 0 Att: 7,687

Feyenoord 4 (Kalou 24, 60, Kuijt pen 35, Castelen 68)
Den Bosch 2 (Biekman 3, Laak pen 83) Att: 36,500

Heerenveen 1 (Samaras 90)
Den Haag 0 Att: 17,300

Utrecht 3 (Van de Haar 60, 83, Somers 69)
RKC 2 (Putter 26, 56) Att: 18,800

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	7	6	1	0	23	5	19
Feyenoord	7	5	1	1	22	8	16
Utrecht	7	5	1	1	17	7	16
Ajax	7	4	3	0	19	8	15
AZ	7	3	3	1	13	9	12
Vitesse	7	3	2	2	12	10	11
RKC	7	3	1	3	10	7	10
NEC	7	3	1	3	8	7	10
Roda JC	7	3	1	3	13	14	10
Heerenveen	7	3	1	3	11	13	10
Willem II	7	3	1	3	9	13	10
NAC	7	3	1	3	13	21	10
Twente	7	1	2	4	9	11	5
Den Bosch	7	1	2	4	5	17	5
Groningen	7	0	4	3	6	11	4
Den Haag	7	1	1	5	7	14	4
RBC	7	1	1	5	9	22	4
De Graafschap	7	0	3	4	7	16	3

LEADING GOALSCORERS

8 Salomon Kalou (Feyenoord)
6 Dirk Kuijt (Feyenoord)
6 Hans Van de Haar (Utrecht)
6 Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (PSV)

HUNGARY

Sep 11: Nyiregyhaza 0 Papa 2; Kaposvar 2 Ferencvaros 1; MTK 2 Debrecen 0; Videoton 1 Pecs 0; Gyor 1 Honved 0; Bekescsaba 3 Matav 3;
Sep 12: Vasas 1 Ujpest 2.
Sep 18: Papa 2 Vasas 0; Gyor 2 Bekescsaba 0; Honved 2 Diosgyor 1; Pecs 1 MTK 0; Debrecen 2 Kaposvar 1; Zalaegerszeg 0 Videoton 0.
Sep 19: Ujpest 1 Matav 4; Ferencvaros 5 Nyiregyhaza 0.
Sep 25: Nyiregyhaza 0 Debrecen 2; Kaposvar 2 Pecs 1; Videoton 4 Honved 1; Diosgyor 2 Gyor 3; Matav 1 Papa 0; Bekescsaba 0 Ujpest 5.

Sep 26: MTK 2 Zalaegerszeg 0; Vasas 0 Ferencvaros 1.
Oct 2: Diosgyor 1 Bekescsaba 0; Gyor 0 Videoton 0; Honved 1 MTK 1; Zalaegerszeg 5 Kaposvar 0; Pecs 1 Nyiregyhaza 1; Debrecen 3 Vasas 1.
Oct 3: Ferencvaros 4 Matav 1; Papa 1 Ujpest 2.

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ferencvaros	8	7	0	1	20	7	21
Debrecen	8	6	0	2	15	8	18
Gyor	8	5	1	2	13	9	16
Zalaegerszeg	7	4	2	1	14	6	14
Ujpest	7	4	2	1	15	10	14
Papa	8	4	1	3	14	8	13
MTK	7	4	1	2	10	4	13
Kaposvar	8	3	2	3	9	15	11
Pecs	8	3	1	4	8	9	10
Matav	8	2	4	2	12	14	10
Videoton	8	2	3	3	8	9	9
Honved	8	2	2	4	11	15	8
Bekescsaba	8	1	2	5	8	17	5
Vasas	8	1	1	6	7	15	4
Nyiregyhaza	8	0	4	4	7	18	4
Diosgyor	7	1	0	6	7	14	3

ICELAND

ICELAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FH	18	10	7	1	33	16	37
IBV	18	9	4	5	35	20	31
IA	18	8	7	3	28	19	31
Fylkir	18	8	5	5	26	20	29
Keflavik	18	7	3	8	31	33	24
KR	18	5	7	6	21	22	22
Grindavik	18	5	7	6	24	31	22
Fram	18	4	5	9	19	28	17
Vikingur	18	4	4	10	19	30	16
KA	18	4	3	11	13	30	15

ITALY

Saturday, September 11

Chievo 2 (Semioli 29, Pellissier 37)
Inter 2 (Stankovic 16, Adriano 48) Att: 29,450

Milan 2 (Seedorf 3, 47)
Livorno 2 (C Lucarelli pen 9, 67) Att: 69,453

Sunday, September 12

Atalanta 2 (Pazzini 1, Albertini 52)
Lecce 2 (Giacomazzi 9, Bojinov 76) Att: 12,320

Brescia 0
Juventus 3 (Nedved 35, Trezeguet 38, Ibrahimovic 69) Att: 16,504

Cagliari 1 (Esposito 19)
Bologna 0 Att: 18,000

Palermo 1 (Toni 22)
Siena 0 Att: 32,421

Parma 0
Messina 0 Att: 11,415

Reggina 0
Udinese 0 Att: 14,650

Roma 1 (Montella 53)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 57,724

Sampdoria 0
Lazio 1 (Di Canio pen 29) Att: 24,298

Saturday, September 18

Inter 1 (Adriano 46)
Palermo 1 (Toni 67) Att: 68,190

Lecce 4 (Bojinov 38, 72, Bjelanovic 51, Giacomazzi 81)
Brescia 1 (Caracciolo 27) Att: 13,551

Sunday, September 19

Bologna 0
Milan 2 (Shevchenko pen 82, Kaka 90) Att: 27,345

Fiorentina 2 (Miccoli 15, Dainelli 90)
Cagliari 1 (Suazo 90) Att: 33,361

Juventus 2 (Trezeguet 14, 58)
Atalanta 0 Att: 22,221

Lazio 1 (Inzaghi pen 32)
Reggina 1 (Bonazzoli 35) Att: 37,773

Livorno 1 (Protti 15)
Chievo 2 (Cossato 49, Semioli 57) Att: 14,060

Messina 4 (Parisi pen 20, Sullo 47, Zampagna 77, Giampa 80)
Roma 3 (Montella 35, 72, 75) Att: 29,932

Siena 2 (Vergassola 10, Portanova 69)
Sampdoria 1 (Flachi 5) Att: 9,400

Udinese 4 (Di Natale 14, Jankulovski pen 74, Di Michele 76, Fava 90)
Parma 0 Att: 13,624

Wednesday, September 22

Atalanta 2 (Budan 25, Pazzini 84)
Inter 3 (Stankovic 54, Recoba 79, Adriano 87) Att: 21,962

Brescia 0
Lazio 2 (Rocchi 29, Fernando Couto 45) Att: 6,980

Cagliari 2 (Esposito 18, Suazo 76)
Siena 0 Att: 12,000

Chievo 0
Udinese 0 Att: 7,375

Milan 1 (Pancaro 54)
Messina 2 (Giampa 55, Zampagna 59) Att: 59,640

Palermo 0
Fiorentina 0 Att: 32,642

Parma 1 (Cannavaro 58)
Bologna 2 (Locatelli 13, Petruzzi 20) Att: 11,637

Reggina 2 (Bonazzoli 9, Colucci 60)
Livorno 1 (A Lucarelli 31) Att: 14,685

Roma 2 (Cassano 54, Mancini 72)
Lecce 2 (Cassetti 41, Bojinov 59) Att: 45,097

Sampdoria 0
Juventus 3 (Del Piero pen 18, Ibrahimovic 69, Trezeguet 86) Att: 32,102

Saturday, September 25

Bologna 3 (Meghni 5, 38, Cipriani 34)
Roma 1 (Totti 60) Att: 18,594

Juventus 1 (Ibrahimovic 53)
Palermo 1 (Zaccardo 17) Att: 26,740

Sunday, September 26

Fiorentina 0
Sampdoria 2 (Bazzani 9, Sacchetti 65) Att: 31,890

Inter 2 (Martins 71, 82)
Parma 2 (Gilardino 15, Marchionni 74) Att: 55,303

Lazio 1 (Fernando Couto 37)
Milan 2 (Shevchenko 70, 74) Att: 41,738

Lecce 3 (Cassetti 56, Giacomazzi 72, Bjelanovic 85)
Cagliari 1 (Esposito 48) Att: 14,755

Livorno 1 (Vigiani 71)
Atalanta 1 (Gautieri 69) Att: 13,051

Messina 0
Chievo 0 Att: 28,186

Siena 0
Reggina 0 Att: 8,200

Udinese 1 (Di Michele 57)
Brescia 2 (Caracciolo 7, Mannini 76) Att: 13,589

Saturday, October 2

Cagliari 2 (Zola pen 12, Langella 82)
Brescia 1 (Caracciolo 38) Att: 12,000

Chievo 2 (Baronio 47, Tiribocchi 79)
Lecce 1 (Vucinic 90) Att: 8,000

Sunday, October 3

Atalanta 1 (Gautieri 11)
Lazio 1 (Muzzi 85) Att: 12,000

Messina 4 (Parisi pen 33, Di Napoli 34, 53, Amoruso 82)
Siena 1 (Portanova 39) Att: 21,500

Milan 3 (Shevchenko 11, 88, Kaka 66)
Reggina 1 (Franceschini 59) Att: 59,473

Palermo 1 (Brienza 40)
Bologna 0 Att: 32,435

Parma 0
Fiorentina 0 Att: 14,434

Roma 3 (Montella 8, Totti 57, De Rossi 74)
Inter 3 (Cambiasso 45, Veron 51, Recoba 54) Att: 58,000

Sampdoria 2 (Rossini 79, Diana 88)
Livorno 0 Att: 23,500

Udinese 0
Juventus 1 (Zalayeta 61) Att: 21,000

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	5	4	1	0	10	1	13
Messina	5	3	2	0	10	5	11
Milan	5	3	1	1	10	6	10
Chievo	5	2	3	0	6	4	9
Palermo	5	2	3	0	4	2	9
Cagliari	5	3	0	2	7	6	9
Lecce	5	2	2	1	12	8	8
Lazio	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Inter	5	1	4	0	11	10	7
Bologna	5	2	0	3	5	6	6
Sampdoria	5	2	0	3	5	6	6
Reggina	5	1	3	1	4	5	6
Udinese	5	1	2	2	5	3	5
Roma	5	1	2	2	10	12	5
Fiorentina	5	1	2	2	2	4	5
Siena	5	1	1	3	3	8	4
Atalanta	5	0	3	2	6	9	3
Parma	5	0	3	2	3	8	3
Brescia	5	1	0	4	4	12	3
Livorno	5	0	2	3	5	9	2

LEADING GOALSCORERS
5 Vincenzo Montella (Roma)
5 Andrii Shevchenko (Milan)
4 Valeri Bojinov (Lecce)
4 David Trezeguet (Juventus)

NORWAY

Sep 11: Rosenborg 1 Valerenga 4.
Sep 12: Fredrikstad 2 Ham-Kam 1; Lillestrom 0 Odd Grenland 4; Lyn 1 Bodo/Glimt 0; Molde 1 Tromso 1; Viking 4 Sogndal 2.
Sep 13: Brann 1 Stabaek 2.
Sep 18: Ham-Kam 1 Viking 2.
Sep 19: Bodo/Glimt 1 Brann 1; Odd Grenland 3 Rosenborg 0; Stabaek 1 Fredrikstad 1; Tromso 0 Lyn 1; Valerenga 4 Molde 1.
Sep 20: Sogndal 0 Lillestrom 4.
Sep 25: Rosenborg 3 Sogndal 1.
Sep 26: Brann 5 Lyn 1; Fredrikstad 1 Bodo/Glimt 0; Molde 2 Odd Grenland 1; Lillestrom 0 Ham-Kam 1; Viking 1 Stabaek 0.
Sep 27: Valerenga 1 Tromso 1.
Oct 3: Bodo/Glimt 2 Viking 2; Ham-Kam 2 Rosenborg 0; Lyn 2 Fredrikstad 2; Odd Grenland 2 Valerenga 4; Tromso 0 Brann 1; Sogndal 2 Molde 1.
Oct 4: Stabaek 1 Lillestrom 1.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	23	12	6	5	46	31	42
Valerenga	23	11	8	4	36	22	41
Tromso	23	11	4	8	34	27	37
Brann	23	11	3	9	41	35	36
Ham-Kam	23	10	6	7	32	30	36
Lyn	23	9	8	6	28	26	35
Lillestrom	23	8	8	7	42	30	32
Odd Grenland	23	8	7	8	40	37	31
Viking	23	6	11	6	26	30	29
Bodo/Glimt	23	7	5	11	28	37	26
Fredrikstad	23	7	5	11	36	47	26
Molde	23	5	9	9	28	36	24
Stabaek	23	6	6	11	22	33	24
Sogndal	23	4	6	13	34	52	18

POLAND

Sep 10: Cracovia 0 Gornik Z 0.
Sep 11: Amica 1 Groclin 3; Wisla P 4 Polonia 1; Odra 0 Legia 1; Katowice 4 Gornik L 0; Zaglebie 2 Lech 0.
Sep 12: Pogon 0 Wisla K 5.
Sep 17: Lech 0 Cracovia 2.
Sep 18: Polonia 3 Pogon 3; Groclin 3 Zaglebie 1; Gornik Z 2 Odra 0; Katowice 0 Wisla P 0.
Sep 19: Wisla K 1 Amica 1; Gornik L 1 Legia 2.
Sep 25: Amica 1 Polonia 0; Wisla P 3 Gornik L 0; Pogon 4 Katowice 2; Zaglebie 1 Wisla K 7; Odra 3 Lech 1.
Sep 26: Cracovia 2 Groclin 0.
Oct 2: Gornik L 2 Gornik Z 0; Groclin 1 Odra 0; Polonia 1 Zaglebie 1; Wisla P 3 Pogon 2.
Oct 3: Wisla K 0 Cracovia 0; Katowice 1 Amica 4; Lech 1 Legia 1.

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wisla K	8	6	2	0	29	3	20
Groclin	7	6	0	1	13	6	18
Amica	8	4	3	1	15	8	15
Legia	7	4	3	0	9	5	15
Cracovia	8	3	2	3	13	10	11
Wisla P	8	3	2	3	12	12	11
Gornik Z	7	2	4	1	8	4	10
Odra	8	3	0	5	10	12	9
Zaglebie	8	2	3	3	10	18	9
Polonia	7	2	2	3	8	13	8
Lech	8	2	1	5	10	17	7
Pogon	8	2	1	5	13	22	7
Gornik L	8	2	0	6	8	18	6
Katowice	8	1	1	6	9	19	4

PORTUGAL

Friday, September 10

Gil Vicente 0
Boavista 1 (Jose Manuel 38)

Saturday, September 11

Benfica 2 (Petit 23, Simao 83)
Moreirense 0

Maritimo 3 (Van der Gaag 37, Bibishkov 58, Joel Santos 83)
Penafiel 0

Sporting Braga 1 (Wender pen 59)
FC Porto 1 (Maniche 3)

Uniao Leiria 4 (Joao Paulo 20, pen 64, Edson 36, 47)
Estoril 2 (Hugo Santos 3, Joao Paulo 80)

Sunday, September 12

Nacional 2 (Alexandre Goulart 40, Gouveia 90)
Beira Mar 1 (McPhee 10)

Setubal 2 (Jorginho pen 50, Meyong 70)
Sporting Lisbon 0

Monday, September 13

Rio Ave 3 (Saulo 6, Ze Gomes 29, Ricardo Nascimento 54)
Belenenses 3 (Brasilia 64, 90, Jose Pedro 80)

Friday, September 17

Boavista 1 (Martelinho 16)
Setubal 1 (Jorginho 53)

Saturday, September 18

FC Porto 2 (Luis Fabiano 17, Pepe 69)
Estoril 2 (N'Doye 13, Pinheiro 44)

Sunday, September 19

Academica 0
Benfica 1 (Simao 73)

Beira Mar 1 (Kingsley 6)
Gil Vicente 0

Belenenses 2 (Antchouet 6, Lourenco pen 61)
Uniao Leiria 1 (Krpan 66)

Moreirense 3 (Anunciacao 36, Manoel 39, 56)
Nacional 2 (Marcelo 75, Cleomir 88)

Penafiel 1 (Wesley 77)
Rio Ave 1 (Franco 69)

Monday, September 20

Sporting Lisbon 0
Maritimo 1 (Manduca 12)

Tuesday, September 21

Sporting Braga 1 (Joao Tomas 34)
Guimaraes 0

Wednesday, September 22

FC Porto 1 (Ricardo Quaresma 8)
Uniao Leiria 1 (Krpan 74)

Friday, September 24

Setubal 1 (Ze Rui 37)
Beira Mar 2 (Beto 27, McPhee 83)

Saturday, September 25

Guimaraes 0
FC Porto 1 (Costinha 83)

Maritimo 2 (Tonel 25, Alan pen 76)
Boavista 1 (Cadu 90)

Sunday, September 26

Benfica 0
Sporting Braga 0

Gil Vicente 3 (Carlitos 46, Ricardo Fernandes og 80, Paulo Alves 90)
Moreirense 1 (Manoel 77)

Nacional 2 (Serginho Baiano 57, Josiesley Ferreira 81)
Academica 1 (Luciano 72)

Rio Ave 0
Sporting Lisbon 0

Uniao Leiria 1 (Renato 59)
Penafiel 2 (Folha 8, Clayton 18)

Monday, September 27

Estoril 1 (N'Doye 88)
Belenenses 0

Friday, October 1

Boavista 0
Rio Ave 1 (Franco 29)

Sunday, October 3

Academica 2 (Antonio 32, Joeano 41)
Gil Vicente 1 (Fabio 26)

Guimaraes 1 (Moreno 77)
Benfica 2 (Simao 68, Geovanni 90)

Moreirense 2 (Fernando 19, 71)
Setubal 2 (Jorginho pen 53, Rui 64)

Penafiel 2 (Wesley 19, 23)
Estoril 1 (N'Doye 42)

FC Porto 3 (Maniche 35, McCarthy 72, 90)
Belenenses 0

Monday, October 4

Sporting Lisbon 2 (Rogerio 25, Beto 90)
Uniao Leiria 2 (Paulo 37, Felicio 73)

Tuesday, October 5

Sporting Braga 3 (Wender 27, Tomas 70, 74)
Nacional 2 (Avalos 47, Serginho 48)

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	5	4	1	0	8	3	13
FC Porto	5	2	3	0	8	4	9
Sporting Braga	5	2	3	0	7	5	9
Maritimo	4	3	0	1	6	4	9
Setubal	5	2	2	1	10	6	8
Rio Ave	5	1	4	0	5	4	7
Belenenses	5	2	1	2	8	8	7
Boavista	5	2	1	2	4	4	7
Penafiel	5	2	1	2	6	10	7
Beira Mar	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Nacional	5	2	0	3	8	9	6
Uniao Leiria	5	1	2	2	9	9	5
Estoril	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
Sporting Lisbon	5	1	2	2	5	7	5
Moreirense	5	1	2	2	6	9	5
Academica	5	1	1	3	6	8	4
Guimaraes	5	1	1	3	3	5	4
Gil Vicente	5	1	0	4	6	8	3

ROMANIA

Sep 10: Farul 2 Poli Iasi 1; Apulum 0 Bacau 0.
Sep 11: U Craiova 3 CFR Cluj 2; Rapid 2 Brasov 0; Otelul 1 Sportul 0.
Sep 12: Gloria 0 Poli AEK 0; Arges 2 Steaua 2; Dinamo 0 National 1.
Sep 17: CFR Cluj 1 Arges 1; Poli AEK 1 Rapid 1.
Sep 18: Brasov 4 Apulum 1; National 3 U Craiova 1; Poli Iasi 1 Sportul 3.
Sep 19: Gloria 3 Otelul 0; Bacau 0 Dinamo 2; Steaua 3 Farul 1.
Sep 24: Apulum 2 Poli AEK 1; Rapid 3 Gloria 1.
Sep 25: Sportul 1 Steaua 2; U Craiova 1 Bacau 1.
Sep 26: Dinamo 3 Brasov 1; Arges 0 National 1; Farul 0 CFR Cluj 1; Otelul 1 Poli Iasi 0.
Oct 1: Gloria 6 Apulum 1; Bacau 1 Arges 0.
Oct 2: Otelul 1 Rapid 0; National 2 Farul 2; CFR Cluj 1 Sportul 1.
Oct 3: Poli AEK 2 Dinamo 3; Brasov 1 U Craiova 3; Steaua 0 Poli Iasi 1.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
National	9	7	1	1	17	8	22
Rapid	9	5	2	2	15	8	17
Steaua	8	5	1	2	16	7	16
Gloria	9	5	1	3	16	8	16
CFR Cluj	9	4	3	2	16	13	15
Bacau	9	4	3	2	7	6	15
Dinamo	8	4	0	4	12	11	12
Farul	9	3	3	3	10	9	12
Otelul	8	4	0	4	6	8	12
U Craiova	9	2	4	3	9	15	10
Apulum	8	3	1	4	10	20	10
Sportul	9	2	3	4	12	12	9
Arges	9	1	5	3	9	13	8
Poli AEK	9	2	2	5	11	16	8
Poli Iasi	8	1	2	5	6	11	5
Brasov	8	1	1	6	9	16	4

RUSSIA

Sep 10: CSKA 2 Spartak 1.
Sep 11: Kryliya Sovetov 0 Zenit 1; Torpedo 3 Amkar 2; Rotor 1 Saturn 0.
Sep 12: Rostov 1 Kuban 1; Lokomotiv 3 Alaniya 0; Rubin 0 Shinnik 1; FC Moscow 1 Dinamo 0.
Sep 18: Kryliya Sovetov 1 Shinnik 2; Dinamo 3 Amkar 1; Spartak 2 Rubin 0.
Sep 19: Alaniya 1 CSKA 4; Rostov 1 Saturn 2; Kuban 0 FC Moscow 0; Lokomotiv 0 Rotor 1.
Sep 20: Zenit 3 Torpedo 1.
Sep 24: Torpedo 0 Kryliya Sovetov 1.
Sep 25: CSKA 0 Lokomotiv 1; Rubin 2 Dinamo 2; Shinnik 2 Zenit 1; Rotor 3 Rostov 2.
Sep 26: Amkar 0 Spartak 2; FC Moscow 0 Alaniya 0; Saturn 2 Kuban 1.
Oct 2: Kryliya Sovetov 2 Rubin 1; Spartak 1 Torpedo 2; Rostov 1 FC Moscow 2; Alaniya 1 Rotor 1.
Oct 3: Dinamo 1 Shinnik 0; Lokomotiv 2 Saturn 0; Kuban 0 CSKA 3.
Oct 4: Zenit 0 Amkar 0.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	25	14	7	4	43	20	49
Zenit	25	15	4	6	44	27	49
Lokomotiv	25	14	6	5	36	17	48
Kryliya Sovetov	25	14	4	7	43	35	46
Torpedo	25	12	6	7	40	29	42
Shinnik	25	11	7	7	26	23	40
FC Moscow	25	9	10	6	30	26	37
Spartak	25	10	4	11	37	37	34
Saturn	25	7	11	7	26	24	32
Dinamo	25	6	8	11	25	32	26
Rubin	25	5	10	10	25	28	25
Rostov	25	6	7	12	26	35	25
Alaniya	25	6	7	12	21	37	25
Amkar	25	4	11	10	21	37	23
Kuban	25	4	9	12	21	36	21
Rotor	25	4	7	14	24	45	19

SCOTLAND

Saturday, September 11

Celtic 3 (Camara 22, 86, Hartson 37)
Dundee 0 Att: 56,936

Dundee Utd 1 (Wilson pen 83)
Aberdeen 1 (Mackie 7) Att: 10,995

Dunfermline 1 (Brewster 9)
Motherwell 1 (McDonald 87) Att: 4,388

Inverness 1 (Wilson pen 37)
Hibernian 2 (Riordan 12, 60) Att: 2,011

Livingston 0
Kilmarnock 2 (Lilley 60, Invincible 72) Att: 3,106

Sunday, September 12

Hearts 0
Rangers 0 Att: 14,601

Saturday, September 18

Dundee 0
Livingston 0 Att: 4,387

Kilmarnock 0
Aberdeen 1 (Fowler og 54) Att: 6,686

Motherwell 4 (McDonald 53, 70, Clarkson 57, Burns 90)
Dundee Utd 2 (Grady 45, McIntyre 69) Att: 5,091

Sunday, September 19

Dunfermline 1 (Nicholson 65)
Hearts 0 Att: 5,883

Hibernian 2 (Balde og 8, Murphy 35)
Celtic 2 (Camara 34, Hartson 45) Att: 13,500

Rangers 1 (Prso 17)
Inverness 0 Att: 47,063

Saturday, September 25

Aberdeen 0
Hibernian 1 (Riordan 62) Att: 12,137

Celtic 3 (Varga 20, Camara 38, 54)
Dunfermline 0 Att: 58,213

Hearts 1 (Hartley 15)
Inverness 0 Att: 10,340

Kilmarnock 5 (Boyd 7, 16, 33, pen 37, 84)
Dundee 2 (Archibald 29, Dodds 73) Att: 4,711

Livingston 2 (O'Brien 37, Hamilton 45)
Motherwell 3 (McBride 11, McDonald 50, Foran 71) Att: 4,050

Sunday, September 26

Dundee 0
Rangers 2 (Novo 78, 80) Att: 9,404

Saturday, October 2

Aberdeen 1 (Heikkinen 42)
Dundee 1 (Sutton 1) Att: 11,217

Dunfermline 1 (Donnelly 86)
Hibernian 1 (O'Connor 39) Att: 7,290

Sunday, October 3

Dundee Utd 0
Celtic 3 (Sutton 9, pen 37, Petrov 17) Att: 10,329

Hearts 0
Livingston 0 Att: 10,646

Inverness 1 (McCaffrey 90)
Motherwell 1 (McDonald 38) Att: 1,117

Rangers 2 (Andrews 10, Novo 82)
Kilmarnock 0 Att: 46,278

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	8	7	1	0	21	5	22
Rangers	8	5	2	1	13	2	17
Motherwell	8	4	2	2	14	11	14
Aberdeen	8	3	4	1	6	3	13
Hearts	8	3	3	2	5	3	12
Hibernian	8	3	3	2	13	14	12
Kilmarnock	8	4	0	4	11	12	12
Dundee	8	1	3	4	8	14	6
Livingston	8	1	3	4	6	12	6
Dunfermline	8	1	3	4	4	10	6
Dundee Utd	8	1	3	4	10	18	6
Inverness	8	1	1	6	6	13	4

LEADING GOALSCORER
7 Scott McDonald (Motherwell)

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

Sep 11: Vojvodina 1 Borac 0; Zemun 3 OFK 2; Zeta 1 Red Star 1; Hajduk B 0 Zeleznik 0; Cukaricki 2 Obilic 1; Sutjeska 0 Buducnost P 1; Hajduk K 0 Sartid 0; Partizan 1 Radnicki NB 0.
Sep 15: OFK 1 Zeleznik 0.
Sep 18: Obilic 1 Sutjeska 1; OFK 0 Zeta 1; Borac 1 Sartid 0; Zeleznik 2 Cukaricki 1; Vojvodina 1 Zemun 0.
Sep 19: Radnicki NB 2 Hajduk K 2; Buducnost P 0 Partizan 2; Red Star 5 Hajduk B 0.
Sep 22: Zeleznik 2 Vojvodina 2; Red Star 4 OFK 2.
Sep 25: Zemun 2 Borac 2; Zeta 1 Vojvodina 0; Hajduk B 2 OFK 3; Cukaricki 0 Red Star 1; Hajduk K 0 Buducnost P 1; Sutjeska 1 Zeleznik 0; Sartid 3 Radnicki NB 0; Partizan 4 Obilic 1.
Oct 2: Buducnost P 0 Sartid 1; Obilic 1 Hajduk K 3; Borac 1 Radnicki NB 1; OFK 2 Cukaricki 0; Vojvodina 1 Hajduk B 1; Zemun 2 Zeta 1.
Oct 3: Zeleznik 1 Partizan 2; Red Star 3 Sutjeska 0.

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	8	7	1	0	22	5	22
Red Star	7	5	1	1	15	4	16
Zeta	8	5	1	2	11	6	16
OFK	8	5	0	3	14	10	15
Zemun	8	4	2	2	15	11	14
Buducnost P	8	4	1	3	9	10	13
Hajduk K	8	3	3	2	10	10	12
Vojvodina	7	3	2	2	9	8	11
Sartid	8	2	4	2	6	5	10
Borac	8	2	3	3	6	9	9
Sutjeska	8	2	3	3	5	10	9
Radnicki NB	8	2	2	4	7	10	8
Zeleznik	8	1	3	4	7	11	6
Cukaricki	8	1	2	5	4	11	5
Obilic	8	1	1	6	8	18	4
Hajduk B	8	0	3	5	5	15	3

SPAIN

Saturday, September 11

Athletic Bilbao 2 (Urzaiz 15, Iraola pen 20)
Valencia 2 (Di Vaio 65, Angulo 77) Att: 38,000

Barcelona 2 (Giuly 35, Larsson 77)
Sevilla 0 Att: 61,204

Real Madrid 1 (Beckham 17)
Numancia 0 Att: 70,000

Sunday, September 12

Albacete 0
Atletico Madrid 2 (Fernando Torres 86, Ibagaza 90) Att: 14,000

Betis 1 (Edu 52)
Espanyol 4 (Maxi Rodriguez 19, 53, 66, Dani 42) Att: 30,000

Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Pandiani 19)
Osasuna 3 (Aloisi pen 56, Milosevic 62, 81) Att: 22,000

Getafe 1 (Nano 84)
Mallorca 2 (Luis Garcia 35, Arango 52) Att: 13,000

Levante 3 (Manchev 46, Nacho Perez 67, Ettien 88)
Racing Santander 1 (Aganzo 18) Att: 15,813

Malaga 0
Zaragoza 0 Att: 24,000

Villarreal 0
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 16,000

Saturday, September 18

Espanyol 1 (Maxi Rodriguez 41)
Real Madrid 0 Att: 39,100

Osasuna 3 (Aloisi 55, Melli og 72, Milosevic 82)
Betis 2 (Melli 32, Edu 64) Att: 14,104

Valencia 3 (Di Vaio 36, 50, Mista 73)
Real Sociedad 1 (Arteta pen 81) Att: 45,000

Sunday, September 19

Athletic Bilbao 1 (Iraola 55)
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Pandiani 56, Luque 89) Att: 28,000

Atletico Madrid 1 (Fernando Torres 48)
Barcelona 1 (Van Bronckhorst 21) Att: 55,000

Mallorca 1 (Delibasic 70)
Malaga 2 (Edgar 24, Wanchope 80) Att: 14,000

Numancia 1 (Pineda 6)
Getafe 0 Att: 7,000

Racing Santander 1 (Juanma 90)
Villarreal 1 (Battaglia 59) Att: 11,850

Sevilla 3 (Renato 20, Julio Baptista 46, 53)
Levante 0 Att: 38,000

Zaragoza 4 (Javi Moreno 2, 52, Savio 57, Villa 69)
Albacete 3 (Pacheco 32, Redondo 40, Ruben Castro 89) Att: 30,000

Tuesday, September 21

Real Madrid 1 (Beckham 61)
Osasuna 0 Att: 60,000

Wednesday, September 22

Albacete 0
Mallorca 0 Att: 12,000

Betis 2 (Juanito 38, Fernando 59)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Urzaiz 38) Att: 29,000

Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Pandiani 64)
Valencia 5 (Corradi 18, Di Vaio 36, Vicente 43, Rufete 45, Baraja 51) Att: 28,000

Getafe 1 (Ibarra og 10)
Espanyol 0 Att: 11,000

Levante 1 (Rivera pen 21)
Atletico Madrid 0 Att: 18,537

Malaga 4 (Miguel Angel 4, Wanchope 9, Amoroso 20, Luque 90)
Numancia 1 (Otxoa 67) Att: 25,000

Real Sociedad 0
Racing Santander 1 (Regueiro 43) Att: 21,555

Villarreal 0
Sevilla 0 Att: 14,000

Thursday, September 23

Barcelona 4 (Eto'o 26, 46, Xavi 67, Van Bronckhorst 79)
Zaragoza 1 (Villa 15) Att: 70,000

Saturday, September 25

Athletic Bilbao 2 (Urzaiz 10, Ezquerro 45)
Real Madrid 1 (Raul 51) Att: 38,000

Atletico Madrid 1 (Salva 41)
Villarreal 0 Att: 40,000

Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Victor 77)
Betis 1 (Ricardo Oliveira 67) Att: 28,000

Sunday, September 26

Espanyol 1 (De la Pena 50)
Malaga 0 Att: 22,800

Mallorca 1 (Delibasic 80)
Barcelona 3 (Larsson 10, Eto'o 38, 40) Att: 23,620

Numancia 0
Albacete 0 Att: 7,000

Osasuna 2 (Moha 21, Milosevic 45)
Getafe 1 (Pachon 45) Att: 13,919

Sevilla 2 (Sergio Ramos 43, Dario Silva 66)
Real Sociedad 1 (Rossato 34) Att: 35,000

Valencia 2 (Vicente 25, Fiore 45)
Racing Santander 0 Att: 45,000

Zaragoza 4 (Villa pen 34, Javi Moreno 47, 74, Savio 52)
Levante 3 (Manchev 26, 45, Celestini 75) Att: 32,000

Saturday, October 2

Betis 1 (Edu 30)
Valencia 1 (Di Vaio 10) Att: 28,000

Real Sociedad 1 (Kovacevic 41)
Atletico Madrid 0 Att: 20,500

Sunday, October 3

Albacete 1 (Redondo 67)
Espanyol 0 Att: 15,000

Barcelona 1 (Larsson 70)
Numancia 0 Att: 79,447

Getafe 3 (Pachon 1, 60, 65)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Etxeberria 51) Att: 14,000

Levante 2 (Manchev 28, Sergio Garcia 34)
Mallorca 0 Att: 15,000

Malaga 2 (Amoroso 22, Wanchope 61)
Osasuna 0 Att: 22,000

Racing Santander 0
Sevilla 0 Att: 12,500

Real Madrid 0
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Luque 45) Att: 77,000

Villarreal 2 (Alvaro og 40, Forlan 49)
Zaragoza 0 Att: 15,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	6	5	1	0	13	3	16
Valencia	6	4	2	0	15	6	14
Sevilla	6	3	2	1	6	3	11
Malaga	6	3	1	2	8	5	10
Espanyol	6	3	1	2	7	4	10
Atletico Madrid	6	3	1	2	6	3	10
Levante	6	3	1	2	10	9	10
Osasuna	6	3	1	2	9	8	10
Zaragoza	6	3	1	2	12	13	10
Real Madrid	6	3	0	3	4	4	9
Dep La Coruna	6	2	2	2	7	11	8
Villarreal	6	1	3	2	4	4	6
Getafe	6	2	0	4	7	9	6
Betis	6	1	3	2	8	11	6
Athletic Bilbao	6	1	2	3	8	11	5
Albacete	6	1	2	3	4	7	5
Real Sociedad	6	1	2	3	4	7	5
Numancia	6	1	2	3	3	7	5
Racing Santander	6	1	2	3	3	8	5
Mallorca	6	1	1	4	4	9	4

LEADING GOALSCORERS

5 Marco Di Vaio (Valencia)
5 Samuel Eto'o (Barcelona)
5 Savo Milosevic (Osasuna)

SWEDEN

Sep 11: Djurgardens 1 Hammarby 0.
Sep 12: Elfsborg 1 Landskrona 1; Sundsvall 1 Orebro 0.
Sep 13: Kalmar 1 Orgryte 1; Helsingborgs 2 Trelleborgs 0; IFK Gothenburg 1 AIK 0.
Sep 14: Halmstads 2 Malmo 2.
Sep 18: Landskrona 0 Kalmar 2.
Sep 19: Trelleborgs 2 IFK Gothenburg 3; Hammarby 1 Sundsvall 0; Orgryte 2 Halmstads 0.
Sep 20: AIK 1 Elfsborg 1; Orebro 3 Helsingborgs 1; Malmo 2 Djurgardens 0.
Sep 22: Trelleborgs 0 Halmstads 4; Landskrona 3 Sundsvall 2; Hammarby 0 Orgryte 1.
Sep 23: Elfsborg 1 IFK Gothenburg 0; Kalmar 0 Helsingborgs 0; AIK 1 Djurgardens 1; Orebro 1 Malmo 2.
Sep 26: Malmo 4 Hammarby 3; Halmstads 5 Orebro 0; Djurgardens 5 Trelleborgs 0; Orgryte 0 Elfsborg 2.
Sep 27: Sundsvall 1 AIK 1; Helsingborgs 0 Landskrona 1; IFK Gothenburg 1 Kalmar 0.
Oct 3: Kalmar 1 Malmo 0; AIK 1 Orebro 2; Trelleborgs 1 Orgryte 1.
Oct 4: Helsingborgs 1 Sundsvall 0; Elfsborg 1 Halmstads 1; Landskrona 0 Hammarby 0; IFK Gothenburg 2 Djurgardens 0.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Malmo	23	13	7	3	41	19	46
IFK Gothenburg	23	14	4	5	30	15	46
Halmstads	23	12	7	4	49	25	43
Kalmar	23	9	10	4	24	16	37
Hammarby	23	9	6	8	26	24	33
Djurgardens	23	8	8	7	32	29	32
Elfsborg	23	8	8	7	23	27	32
Helsingborgs	23	7	8	8	38	28	29
Sundsvall	23	6	8	9	23	27	26
Landskrona	23	5	9	9	22	31	24
Orgryte	23	5	9	9	20	29	24
Orebro	23	6	6	11	26	45	24
AIK	23	4	9	10	19	30	21
Trelleborgs	23	2	7	14	17	45	13

SWITZERLAND

Sep 11: Thun 3 Neuchatel Xamax 0; Servette 1 Schaffhausen 1; Aarau 4 St Gallen 1; Zurich 2 Young Boys 3;
Sep 12: Basle 8 Grasshopper 1.
Sep 22: Schaffhausen 2 Zurich 1; St Gallen 1 Servette 1; Thun 4 Basle 1; Grasshopper 1 Aarau 1; Neuchatel Xamax 3 Young Boys 1.
Sep 25: Neuchatel Xamax 1 Schaffhausen 0; Young Boys 0 St Gallen 1; Aarau 1 Basle 0.
Sep 26: Servette 3 Thun 1; Zurich 2 Grasshopper 0.
Oct 2: Grasshopper 0 Servette 2; St Gallen 1 Zurich 2.
Oct 3: Neuchatel Xamax 1 Basle 2; Thun 0 Aarau 0; Schaffhausen 1 Young Boys 1.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Basle	11	6	3	2	25	12	21
Thun	11	6	3	2	17	7	21
Aarau	11	4	3	4	18	18	15
Neuchatel X	11	4	3	4	16	16	15
Young Boys	11	3	5	3	21	18	14
Zurich	11	4	2	5	16	16	14
Grasshopper	11	2	6	3	9	18	12
Schaffhausen	11	2	5	4	13	19	11
St Gallen	11	2	4	5	15	20	10
Servette*	11	3	4	4	13	19	10

**3pts deducted for licensing irregularities during the 2003-04 season*

TURKEY

Sep 11: Denizlispor 0 Trabzonspor 2; Gaziantepspor 2 Ankaraspor 1; Genclerbirligi 2 Diyarbakirspor 0; Sebatspor 1 Fenerbahce 4.
Sep 12: Sakaryaspor 1 Besiktas 4; Istanbulspor 0 Rizespor 3; Galatasaray 3 Samsunspor 1; Malatyaspor 1 Ankaragucu 0; Kayserispor 2 Konyaspor 2.
Sep 17: Diyarbakirspor 0 Denizlispor 1.
Sep 18: Ankaraspor 1 Sakaryaspor 1; Fenerbahce 3 Malatyaspor 1; Konyaspor 3 Sebatspor 3; Samsunspor 2 Istanbulspor 1.
Sep 19: Besiktas 0 Galatasaray 0; Ankaragucu 1 Genclerbirligi 0; Trabzonspor 0 Gaziantepspor 0; Rizespor 2 Kayserispor 1.
Sep 24: Genclerbirligi 1 Fenerbahce 2.
Sep 25: Sebatspor 0 Rizespor 0; Besiktas 2 Ankaraspor 3; Sakaryaspor 1 Trabzonspor 3; Kayserispor 1 Samsunspor 4.
Sep 26: Denizlispor 2 Ankaragucu 0; Malatyaspor 5 Konyaspor 0; Gaziantepspor 1 Diyarbakirspor 1; Galatasaray 4 Istanbulspor 1.
Oct 1: Ankaraspor 0 Galatasaray 2.
Oct 2: Ankaragucu 2 Gaziantepspor 1; Rizespor 0 Malatyaspor 1; Diyarbakirspor 1 Sakaryaspor 0; Fenerbahce 2 Denizlispor 0.
Oct 3: Konyaspor 3 Genclerbirligi 2; Trabzonspor 1 Besiktas 0; Samsunspor 3 Sebatspor 0; Istanbulspor 2 Kayserispor 0.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fenerbahce	8	7	1	0	20	6	22
Trabzonspor	8	7	1	0	19	6	22
Galatasaray	8	6	1	1	16	6	19
Malatyaspor	8	5	1	2	17	10	16
Denizlispor	8	5	0	3	12	10	15
Gaziantepspor	8	4	2	2	11	9	14
Rizespor	8	3	3	2	10	6	12
Ankaragucu	8	3	3	2	7	7	12
Samsunspor	8	3	2	3	13	11	11
Ankaraspor	8	3	2	3	13	14	11
Konyaspor	8	2	4	2	12	17	10
Diyarbakirspor	8	2	3	3	8	10	9
Genclerbirligi	8	2	2	4	9	11	8
Besiktas	8	1	3	4	12	14	6
Istanbulspor	8	1	2	5	6	15	5
Sebatspor	8	0	3	5	9	20	3
Kayserispor	8	0	2	6	6	18	2
Sakaryaspor	8	0	1	7	5	15	1

UKRAINE

Sep 18: Arsenal 0 Kryvbas 2; Metalurh Z 1 Shakhtar 3.
Sep 19: Borysfen 1 Zakarpattya 3; Obolon 0 Metalist 0; Chornomorets 1 Tavriya 0; Vorskla 0 Volyn 2.
Sep 20: Dnipro 1 Dynamo 2; Metalurh D 2 Illichivets 1.
Sep 24: Dynamo 1 Metalurh D 0; Shakhtar 3 Arsenal 0.
Sep 25: Kryvbas 1 Obolon 1; Zakarpattya 0 Metalurh Z 1; Illichivets 2 Vorskla 0; Tavriya 1 Metalist 0; Volyn 0 Borysfen 0; Chornomorets 2 Dnipro 0.
Oct 2: Arsenal 2 Zakarpattya 2.
Oct 3: Borysfen 1 Illichivets 1; Metalist 0 Kryvbas 1; Metalurh Z 1 Volyn 1; Obolon 0 Shakhtar 1; Vorskla 0 Dynamo 3.
Oct 4: Dnipro 3 Tavriya 1; Metalurh D 1 Chornomorets 0.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shakhtar	9	9	0	0	20	2	27
Dynamo	9	7	1	1	16	6	22
Metalurh D	9	6	1	2	14	9	19
Volyn	9	4	2	3	9	9	14
Kryvbas	9	3	4	2	8	7	13
Dnipro	9	4	1	4	12	14	13
Illichivets	8	3	3	2	13	9	12
Metalist	9	3	2	4	12	13	11
Chornomorets	9	3	1	5	7	8	10
Arsenal	9	2	4	3	7	13	10
Zakarpattya	8	2	3	3	7	8	9
Metalurh Z	9	1	6	2	6	10	9
Obolon	9	1	4	4	3	6	7
Tavriya	9	1	3	5	6	11	6
Vorskla	9	2	0	7	4	12	6
Borysfen	9	0	5	4	5	12	5

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday, September 10

Olimpo 0
Independiente 1 (Imboden og 44)

Saturday, September 11

Arsenal 0
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Mignini 79)

Lanus 1 (Obolo 83)
Rosario Central 1 (Coudet 34)

San Lorenzo 1 (Lavezzi 34)
Velez Sarsfield 0

Sunday, September 12

Almagro 1 (Figueroa 82)
Huracan 1 (Caggiano 64)

Boca Juniors 2 (Cagna 65, Tevez 78)
Gimnasia LP 1 (Enria pen 20)

Estudiantes 3 (Silvani 44, Carusca pen 65, Sosa 68)
Instituto 1 (Colliard 23)

Newell's Old Boys 1 (Scocco 22)
Banfield 1 (Palacio 17)

Quilmes 0
Colon Santa Fe 1 (Grisales 51)

Racing Club 1 (Lopez 68)
River Plate 2 (Gonzalez 84, Sand 87)

Friday, September 17

Banfield 1 (Bilos 80)
Quilmes 0

Instituto 0
Arsenal 1 (Casteglione 71)

Saturday, September 18

Colon Santa Fe 0
Almagro 0

Gimnasia LP 2 (Frutos 13, Enria pen 25)
Racing Club 1 (Lopez 65)

Huracan 1 (Zapata 26)
Lanus 3 (Obolo 56, Graf 60, Tilger 88)

Velez Sarsfield 1 (Valdemarin 90)
Olimpo 0

Sunday, September 19

Argentinos Juniors 1 (Pisculichi pen 79)
Newell's Old Boys 2 (Belluschi 17, Re 27)

Independiente 2 (Insua 46, pen 66)
Boca Juniors 1 (Cardozo 26)

River Plate 1 (Pereyra 34)
Estudiantes 1 (Krupoviesa 85)

Rosario Central 1 (Villa 90)
San Lorenzo 0

Wednesday, September 22

Almagro 0
Banfield 2 (Cervera 11, Bilos 54)

Arsenal 1 (Casteglione 38)
River Plate 2 (Brau og 55, Lopez 88)

Boca Juniors 6 (Guglielminpietro 8, Schiavi 37, Cardozo 47, Palermo pen 58, Tevez 60, Fuentes og 64)
Velez Sarsfield 0

Gimnasia LP 2 (Frutos 13, 59)
Independiente 1 (Losada 63)

Lanus 1 (Romero 58)
Colon Santa Fe 0

Olimpo 1 (Laspada pen 14)
Rosario Central 0

Quilmes 1 (Caneo 57)
Argentinos Juniors 0

San Lorenzo 4 (Lavallen og 6, Lavezzi 32, Barrientos 34, 66)
Huracan 1 (Caggiano 90)

Thursday, September 23

Newell's Old Boys 3 (Borghello 12, Steinert 76, Belluschi 79)
Instituto 0

Racing Club 0
Estudiantes 1 (Pavone 68)

Saturday, September 25

Argentinos Juniors 0
Almagro 0

Banfield 1 (Palacio 45)
Lanus 1 (Serrizuela 74)

Colon Santa Fe 3 (Gandin 28, Grisales 32, Bedoya 83)
San Lorenzo 0

Sunday, September 26

Estudiantes 0
Arsenal 0

Huracan 2 (Izquierdo 8, pen 23)
Olimpo 1 (Estevez 75)

Independiente 1 (Castillo 56)
Racing Club 0

Instituto 0
Quilmes 2 (Lopez 45, Caneo 87)

River Plate 2 (Gallardo pen 48, Cuevas 63)
Newell's Old Boys 2 (Capria 3, Penta 58)

Rosario Central 1 (Papa 56)
Boca Juniors 0

Velez Sarsfield 1 (Castroman 69)
Gimnasia LP 0

Friday, October 1

Newell's Old Boys 1 (Ortega pen 56)
Estudiantes 0

Saturday, October 2

Independiente 0
Velez Sarsfield 2 (Abraham og 39, Zarate 82)

San Lorenzo 3 (Lavezzi 26, Herrera 49, Paredes 55)
Banfield 1 (Armenteros 72)

Sunday, October 3

Almagro 3 (Castano 47, Miranda 75, 87)
Instituto 1 (Vilallonga pen 80)

Arsenal 0
Racing Club 0

Boca Juniors 2 (Palermo 63, 73)
Huracan 1 (Gonzalez 4)

Gimnasia LP 1 (Frutos 78)
Rosario Central 1 (Villa 52)

Lanus 0
Argentinos Juniors 0

Olimpo 2 (Escudero 23, Raponi 76)
Colon Santa Fe 4 (Gandin 8, Moreno y Fabianesi 52, Garce 78, Estevez 80)

Quilmes 2 (Lopez 70, 83)
River Plate 2 (Salas 59, Crosa 76)

ARGENTINA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca Juniors	9	6	1	2	18	6	19
River Plate	9	5	4	0	17	11	19
Velez Sarsfield	9	6	1	2	11	8	19
Newell's OB	9	5	3	1	11	5	18
Estudiantes	9	4	4	1	9	5	16
Lanus	9	3	5	1	12	8	14
San Lorenzo	9	4	2	3	14	12	14
Quilmes	9	4	2	3	7	8	14
Colon Santa Fe	9	3	4	2	11	7	13
Independiente	9	4	1	4	12	12	13
Gimnasia LP	9	3	3	3	8	10	12
Arsenal	9	2	5	2	6	5	11
Banfield	9	2	5	2	9	9	11
Almagro	9	2	5	2	5	7	11
Racing Club	9	3	1	5	9	10	10
Rosario Central	9	2	3	4	5	8	9
Huracan	9	1	3	5	8	15	6
Argentinos Jnrs	9	1	2	6	3	8	5
Olimpo	9	1	1	7	6	15	4
Instituto	9	1	1	7	6	18	4

LEADING GOALSCORERS

6 Lisandro Lopez (Racing Club)
6 Rolando Zarate (Velez Sarsfield)
5 Martin Palermo (Boca Juniors)
4 Nicolas Frutos (Gimnasia LP)
4 Daniel Tilger (Lanus)

BOLIVIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

1st stage

Sep 5: Bolivar 1 Iberoamericana 1.
Sep 11: Iberoamericana 0 The Strongest 1.
Sep 12: Aurora 0 Oriente 0; Blooming 3 Santa Cruz 2; Bolivar 2 San Jose 0; Real Potosi 1 La Paz 1.
Sep 15: Union Central 1 Jorge Wilstermann 1.
Sep 19: La Paz 1 San Jose 2; Oriente 1 Blooming 3; Real Potosi 4 Iberoamericana 1; The Strongest 0 Bolivar 1; Union Central 2 Aurora 3; Jorge Wilstermann 1 Santa Cruz 2.
Sep 26: Aurora 1 Jorge Wilstermann 1; Blooming 1 Union Central 2; Bolivar 1 Real Potosi 1; Iberoamericana 3 La Paz 1; Santa Cruz 1 Oriente 2; San Jose 4 The Strongest 0.

CLOSING – 1ST STAGE – GP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar	10	4	6	0	11	6	18
San Jose	10	5	2	3	19	10	17
The Strongest	10	4	2	4	10	14	14
Real Potosi	10	3	3	4	19	17	12
Iberoamericana	10	3	3	4	11	16	12
La Paz	10	1	4	5	12	19	7

GP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blooming	10	5	3	2	19	14	18
Union Central	10	5	1	4	15	14	16
J Wilstermann	10	4	3	3	13	10	15
Oriente	10	3	4	3	13	11	13
Aurora	10	3	3	4	10	16	12
Santa Cruz	10	2	2	6	14	19	8

Top four from each group qualified for 2nd stage

BRAZIL

Sep 11: Sao Paulo 0 Cruzeiro 0; Guarani 3 Juventude 1; Vasco da Gama 1 Sao Caetano 2; Goias 1 Internacional 0.
Sep 12: Figueirense 3 Botafogo 1; Gremio 1 Paysandu 1; Fluminense 2 Flamengo 1; Vitoria 1 Criciuma 0; Atletico Mineiro 2 Coritiba 1; Atletico Paranaense 3 Corinthians 1; Palmeiras 1 Santos 2; Ponte Preta 0 Parana 2.
Sep 18: Criciuma 0 Fluminense 2; Sao Caetano 2 Gremio 0; Parana 0 Guarani 0; Santos 2 Atletico Mineiro 0.
Sep 19: Internacional 2 Vitoria 1; Flamengo 4 Goias 0; Botafogo 2 Vasco da Gama 2; Paysandu 3 Figueirense 1; Cruzeiro 2 Atletico Paranaense 4; Coritiba 0 Palmeiras 0; Corinthians 0 Sao Paulo 0; Juventude 1 Ponte Preta 2.
Sep 24: Figueirense 0 Ponte Preta 1.
Sep 25: Gremio 2 Sao Paulo 1; Paysandu 3 Cruzeiro 1; Sao Caetano 1 Coritiba 0; Guarani 1 Fluminense 1; Atletico Mineiro 1 Internacional 1.
Sep 26: Vasco da Gama 2 Palmeiras 5; Botafogo 4 Parana 3; Santos 4 Vitoria 1; Atletico Paranaense 2 Flamengo 1; Corinthians 1 Goias 0; Juventude 1 Criciuma 0.
Sep 28: Cruzeiro 3 Figueirense 3; Sao Paulo 7 Paysandu 0; Coritiba 2 Gremio 1; Fluminense 1 Atletico Mineiro 1.
Sep 29: Criciuma 1 Guarani 1; Internacional 2 Santos 1; Flamengo 0 Corinthians 0; Vitoria 2 Atletico Paranaense 3; Ponte Preta 1 Botafogo 1; Palmeiras 3 Sao Caetano 1; Parana 2 Vasco da Gama 1.
Sep 30: Goias 1 Juventude 2.
Oct 2: Figueirense 3 Flamengo 2; Gremio 2 Criciuma 0; Vasco da Gama 2 Internacional 0; Fluminense 1 Botafogo 4; Vitoria 4 Paysandu 1; Sao Caetano 2 Goias 0; Guarani 0 Santos 1; Cruzeiro 5 Ponte Preta 0; Sao Paulo 2 Palmeiras 1; Atletico Paranaense 5 Atletico Mineiro 0; Corinthians 1 Juventude 2; Parana 1 Coritiba 0.
Oct 6: Criciuma 2 Internacional 1; Sao Paulo 1 Ponte Preta 0; Santos 1 Corinthians 1; Gremio 2 Fluminense 3; Vasco da Gama 1 Figueirense 0; Goias 4 Vitoria 0; Coritiba 1 Cruzeiro 1.
Oct 7: Botafogo 1 Sao Caetano 1; Juventude 3 Atletico Paranaense 3; Paysandu 2 Flamengo 2; Atletico Mineiro 3 Guarani 2; Palmeiras 1 Parana 1.

BRAZIL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At Paranaense	35	20	8	7	69	38	68
Santos	35	20	5	10	78	51	65
Sao Paulo	35	17	8	10	52	33	59
Sao Caetano	35	17	8	10	45	30	59
Juventude	35	17	8	10	49	43	59
Palmeiras	35	15	11	9	55	36	56
Goias	35	16	7	12	64	55	55
Ponte Preta	35	16	4	14	31	52	53
Fluminense	35	14	11	10	49	48	53
Corinthians	35	14	11	10	37	42	53
Coritiba	35	12	13	10	39	35	49
Figueirense	35	12	12	11	44	44	48
Cruzeiro	35	13	8	14	54	56	47
Internacional	35	12	7	16	44	46	43
Paysandu	35	11	10	14	44	61	43
Vasco da Gama	35	11	9	15	51	50	42
Criciuma	35	11	7	17	46	55	40
Botafogo	35	8	15	12	48	54	39
At Mineiro	35	8	15	12	43	52	39
Flamengo	35	9	11	15	36	39	38
Parana	35	10	7	18	39	61	37
Vitoria	35	10	6	19	55	67	36
Gremio	35	8	11	16	47	55	35
Guarani	35	6	13	16	29	46	31

CHILE

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sep 8: Dep La Serena 1 Huachipato 3; U de Chile 4 Palestino 1; Audax Italiano 3 San Felipe 1; Cobreloa 2 Puerto Montt 1; Dep Temuco 2 Rangers 2.
Sep 9: U Catolica 3 Coquimbo Unido 3.
Sep 11: Puerto Montt 0 U de Concepcion 0; San Felipe 1 Cobreloa 3; Palestino 1 Cobresal 0.
Sep 12: Colo Colo 1 U Catolica 1; Union Espanola 2 Dep Temuco 3; Everton 4 Audax Italiano 2; Rangers 4 Santiago Wanderers 2; Huachipato 1 Coquimbo Unido 0; Dep La Serena 1 U de Chile 3.

Sep 16: Audax Italiano 0 Palestino 0.
Sep 17: Santiago Wanderers 0 Union Espanola 1; U de Chile 2 Huachipato 1; Cobresal 6 Dep La Serena 1; Cobreloa 6 Everton 0; U de Concepcion 1 San Felipe 1; Dep Temuco 4 Puerto Montt 2; U Catolica 0 Rangers 0.
Sep 24: Palestino 1 Cobreloa 1.
Sep 25: Union Espanola 1 U Catolica 2; Huachipato 2 Colo Colo 2; Everton 2 U de Concepcion 1.
Sep 26: Rangers 0 Coquimbo Unido 0; Dep La Serena 3 Audax Italiano 1; U de Chile 2 Cobresal 0; Puerto Montt 1 Santiago Wanderers 0; San Felipe 1 Dep Temuco 0.
Sep 30: Santiago Wanderers 1 Colo Colo 2.
Oct 1: U de Concepcion 2 Palestino 0.
Oct 2: Audax Italiano 1 U de Chile 1; U Catolica 0 Puerto Montt 0; Coquimbo Unido 2 Union Espanola 2.
Oct 3: Cobresal 1 Huachipato 3; Dep Temuco 2 Everton 1; Santiago Wanderers 2 San Felipe 4; Colo Colo 0 Rangers 0; Cobreloa 1 Dep La Serena 1.

CHILE – CLOSING – GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cobreloa	11	5	4	2	25	14	19
Audax Italiano	11	4	3	4	18	17	15
Union Espanola	10	2	4	4	14	15	10
Dep La Serena	11	2	3	6	13	24	9

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Felipe	11	4	3	4	14	16	15
Puerto Montt	11	4	3	4	11	13	15
Coquimbo Unido	10	2	4	4	14	17	10
Sant Wanderers	11	1	2	8	14	24	5

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U de Chile	11	6	3	2	18	9	21
Colo Colo	10	5	4	1	15	9	19
Palestino	11	5	2	4	15	14	17
Dep Temuco	11	3	5	3	20	19	14
Rangers	11	2	5	4	13	16	11

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U Catolica	11	6	4	1	20	16	22
Cobresal	11	5	1	5	18	18	16
U de Concepcion	10	4	3	3	12	8	15
Everton	11	4	3	4	12	17	15
Huachipato	11	4	2	5	17	17	14

COLOMBIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sep 9: Indep Santa Fe 1 Envigado 2.
Sep 11: Indep Medellin 1 America 0.
Sep 12: Tulua 1 Once Caldas 1; Bucaramanga 3 At Huila 1; Dep Cali 1 Indep Santa Fe 0; Envigado 2 At Junior 2; Magdalena 2 Quindio 0; Millonarios 2 Chico 2; Tolima 0 Dep Pasto 0; Pereira 1 At Nacional 4.
Sep 15: Dep Pasto 1 Tulua 0; Pereira 0 Once Caldas 2; Tolima 3 At Huila 2; Millonarios 1 Indep Santa Fe 1; Magdalena 1 At Junior 2; Envigado 3 Quindio 0; Dep Cali 0 America 1.
Sep 16: Chico 0 Bucaramanga 2; At Nacional 2 Indep Medellin 1.
Sep 18: At Junior 0 Dep Cali 3.
Sep 19: America 2 Pereira 1; At Nacional 2 Tolima 0; Dep Pasto 0 Millonarios 0; Chico 1 Magdalena 0; Quindio 1 Envigado 1; Indep Santa Fe 1 Bucaramanga 1; At Huila 1 Tulua 0; Once Caldas 0 Indep Medellin 0.
Sep 22: Once Caldas 3 America 0; Indep Medellin 1 At Huila 0; Tulua 3 Indep Santa Fe 1; Dep Cali 3 Quindio 0; Envigado 1 Chico 0; Magdalena 1 Dep Pasto 0; Millonarios 1 At Nacional 1; Tolima 0 Pereira 1.
Sep 23: Bucaramanga 0 At Junior 1.
Sep 25: Chico 1 Dep Cali 2; America 3 Tolima 3.
Sep 26: Dep Pasto 1 Envigado 1; At Nacional 0 Magdalena 0; Pereira 0 Millonarios 2; At Junior 0 Tulua 2; Quindio 2 Bucaramanga 0; At Huila 3 Once Caldas 0; Indep Santa Fe 2 Indep Medellin 1.
Sep 29: Bucaramanga 0 America 1.
Oct 2: At Huila 0 America 1.
Oct 3: Indep Medellin 2 At Junior 2; Millonarios 2 Tolima 1; Once Caldas 1 Indep Santa Fe 1; Tulua 1 Quindio 0; Envigado 2 At Nacional 1; Dep Cali 2 Dep Pasto 0; Magdalena 1 Pereira 0; Bucaramanga 0 Chico 0.

COLOMBIA – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	13	9	2	2	22	11	29
Tolima	13	7	3	3	21	14	24
Envigado	13	6	5	2	20	13	23
Dep Cali	13	7	2	4	17	11	23
Indep Medellin	13	6	4	3	20	9	22
At Junior	13	6	4	3	19	13	22
Indep Santa Fe	13	6	3	4	19	14	21
Bucaramanga	13	6	3	4	14	12	21
Once Caldas	13	5	4	4	19	14	19
At Nacional	13	5	3	5	16	16	18
At Huila	13	5	2	6	17	16	17
Quindio	13	4	3	6	13	20	15
Tulua	13	4	2	7	11	15	14
Magdalena	13	4	1	8	9	18	13
Dep Pasto	13	2	6	5	5	10	12
Chico	13	2	5	6	10	19	11
Millonarios	13	2	4	7	10	23	10
Pereira	13	2	2	9	5	19	8

ECUADOR

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sep 10: Aucas 2 Barcelona 1.
Sep 11: LDU Quito 2 Espoli 1.
Sep 12: Dep Quito 3 Macara 2; Olmedo 0 Dep Cuenca 0; Emelec 1 El Nacional 0.
Sep 18: Dep Cuenca 0 LDU Quito 1.
Sep 19: Espoli 3 Emelec 1; Aucas 1 El Nacional 1; Macara 1 Olmedo 5; Barcelona 4 Dep Quito 1.
Sep 22: Olmedo 2 Barcelona 1; El Nacional 1 Espoli 0; Dep Quito 1 Aucas 2; LDU Quito 2 Macara 2; Emelec 3 Deportivo Cuenca 1.
Sep 24: Barcelona 2 LDU Quito 1.
Sep 25: Macara 1 Espoli 0; Dep Quito 7 Emelec 1; Dep Cuenca 0 El Nacional 1; Aucas 3 Olmedo 4.
Oct 1: LDU Quito 0 Aucas 1.
Oct 3: Espoli 1 Dep Cuenca 3; Olmedo 1 Dep Quito 1; El Nacional 2 Barcelona 1; Emelec 6 Macara 1.

ECUADOR – CLOSING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	18	10	4	4	36	22	34
Olmedo	18	8	7	3	34	25	31
El Nacional	18	9	4	5	21	17	31
Dep Quito	18	8	6	4	37	26	30
Dep Cuenca	18	8	4	6	24	21	28
Aucas	18	7	5	6	22	20	26
Emelec	18	5	7	6	27	33	22
LDU Quito	18	6	2	10	23	27	20
Macara	18	3	6	9	17	32	15
Espoli	18	2	3	13	15	33	9

Top three qualify for overall championship play-offs

PARAGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sep 11: Guarani 3 Cerro Porteno 0.
Sep 12: 12 de Octubre 2 Libertad 0; Sportivo Luqueno 3 Sport Colombia 2; Olimpia 1 Nacional 1; Sol de America 1 Tacuary 1.
Sep 18: Sol de America 2 12 de Octubre 2; Tacuary 0 Guarani 0; Nacional 0 Sportivo Luqueno 0; Sport Colombia 3 Libertad 1.
Sep 19: Cerro Porteno 3 Olimpia 1.
Sep 22: Libertad 3 Nacional 0; Sportivo Luqueno 1 Cerro Porteno 0; 12 de Octubre 0 Sport Colombia 0; Guarani 0 Sol de America 0; Olimpia 3 Tacuary 2.
Sep 26: Guarani 4 12 de Octubre 4; Sol de America 1 Olimpia 0; Tacuary 0 Sportivo Luqueno 0; Cerro Porteno 0 Libertad 1.
Sep 27: Nacional 4 Sport Colombia 1.
Oct 2: Sport Colombia 0 Cerro Porteno 1.
Oct 3: 12 de Octubre 0 Nacional 2; Libertad 0 Tacuary 0; Sportivo Luqueno 1 Sol de America 2; Olimpia 1 Guarani 1.

PARAGUAY – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cerro Porteno	9	5	1	3	10	6	16
Libertad	9	5	1	3	11	10	16
Nacional	9	4	3	2	16	9	15
Olimpia	9	3	3	3	13	12	12
Sport Colombia	9	3	2	4	12	14	11
Guarani	9	2	5	2	9	13	11
Tacuary	9	1	7	1	5	5	10
Sportivo Luqueno	9	2	4	3	8	11	10
12 de Octubre	9	2	3	4	11	13	9
Sol de America	9	2	3	4	9	11	9

PERU

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sep 11: Sporting Cristal 2 Universidad CV 0; Coronel Bolognesi 0 Alianza Atletico 1; Dep Wanka 1 Cienciano 0; Alianza Lima 1 At Universidad 0.
Sep 12: Estudiantes 2 Universitario 3; Union Huaral 1 Sport Boys 0; Melgar 4 Universidad SMP 4.
Sep 15: Sport Boys 3 Dep Wanka 0; Universidad SMP 1 Estudiantes 0; Cienciano 2 Sporting Cristal 2; Universitario 2 Union Huaral 2; Universidad CV 1 Alianza Lima 0.
Sep 16: Alianza Atletico 3 Melgar 1; At Universidad 3 Coronel Bolognesi 0.
Sep 18: Dep Wanka 2 At Universidad 1; Universidad SMP 0 Sport Boys 0; Union Huaral 1 Universidad CV 1; Alianza Lima 0 Coronel Bolognesi 0.
Sep 19: Sporting Cristal 2 Alianza Atletico 0; Estudiantes 1 Cienciano 0; Melgar 2 Universitario 2.
Sep 22: Sport Boys 1 Estudiantes 0; Universidad CV 3 Dep Wanka 0; Alianza Atletico 1 Alianza Lima 0; At Universidad 1 Sporting Cristal 3; Cienciano 3 Union Huaral 0; Coronel Bolognesi 2 Melgar 3; Universitario 1 Universidad SMP 0.
Sep 26: Universidad SMP 3 Universidad CV 0; Estudiantes 1 At Universidad 2; Melgar 2 Sport Boys 1; Sporting Cristal 4 Alianza Lima 3; Dep Wanka 1 Coronel Bolognesi 1; Union Huaral 2 Alianza Atletico 1; Universitario 1 Cienciano 0.
Sep 29: At Universidad 1 Union Huaral 1; Alianza Lima 0 Melgar 0; Sport Boys 0 Universitario 1; Coronel Bolognesi 0 Sporting Cristal 1; Universidad CV 1 Estudiantes 1.
Sep 30: Cienciano 0 Universidad SMP 0.
Oct 2: Estudiantes 2 Coronel Bolognesi 1; Sport Boys 0 Universidad CV 1; Melgar 2 Cienciano 3.
Oct 3: Universidad SMP 2 Alianza Atletico 1; Union Huaral 0 Alianza Lima 0; Dep Wanka 2 Sporting Cristal 1; Universitario 0 At Universidad 0.

PERU – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting Cristal	7	5	1	1	15	8	16
Universitario	7	4	3	0	10	6	15
Universidad SMP	7	3	3	1	10	6	12
Universidad CV	7	3	2	2	7	7	11
Union Huaral	7	2	4	1	7	8	10
Dep Wanka	6	3	1	2	6	9	10
Alianza Atletico	6	3	0	3	7	7	9
Melgar	7	2	3	2	14	15	9
Cienciano	7	2	2	3	8	7	8
At Universidad	7	2	2	3	8	8	8
Sport Boys	7	2	1	4	5	5	7
Estudiantes	7	2	1	4	7	9	7
Alianza Lima	7	1	3	3	4	6	6
Coronel Bolognesi	7	0	2	5	4	11	2

URUGUAY

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sep 11: Rentistas 0 Nacional 1.
Sep 12: Cerrito 1 Penarol 1; Fenix 0 Plaza 0; Wanderers 1 Danubio 1; Defensor 1 Liverpool 1.
Sep 14: Penarol 0 Wanderers 0; Plaza 1 Rentistas 1.
Sep 15: Nacional 1 Danubio 1; Liverpool 1 Fenix 1; Defensor 4 Cerrito 0.
Sep 17: Cerrito 2 Rentistas 3.
Sep 18: Penarol 3 Liverpool 3; Danubio 3 Fenix 1.
Sep 19: Nacional 0 Defensor 0; Wanderers 1 Plaza 0.
Sep 25: Plaza 0 Penarol 2; Rentistas 1 Defensor 2.
Sep 26: Fenix 0 Nacional 3; Liverpool 2 Wanderers 2; Danubio 1 Cerrito 0.
Sep 28: Plaza 0 Danubio 0.
Sep 29: Defensor 2 Penarol 1; Liverpool 1 Nacional 4; Rentistas 2 Wanderers 1; Fenix 0 Cerrito 1.
Oct 2: Penarol 5 Fenix 3.
Oct 3: Nacional 2 Plaza 2; Cerrito 0 Liverpool 1; Danubio 2 Rentistas 1; Wanderers 1 Defensor 2.

URUGUAY – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Defensor	6	4	2	0	11	4	14
Nacional	6	3	3	0	11	4	12
Danubio	6	3	3	0	8	4	12
Penarol	6	2	3	1	12	9	9
Rentistas	6	2	1	3	8	9	7
Liverpool	6	1	4	1	9	11	7
Wanderers	6	1	3	2	6	7	6
Plaza	6	0	4	2	3	6	4
Cerrito	6	1	1	4	4	10	4
Fenix	6	0	2	4	5	13	2

VENEZUELA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sep 11: Caracas 0 Mineros Guayana 0.
Sep 12: Carabobo 1 Ital-Chacao 1; Trujillanos 1 Dep Tachira 0; Monagas 0 ItalMaracaibo 0; UA Maracaibo 2 Estudiantes 2.
Sep 15: Estudiantes 2 Mineros Guayana 2; UA Maracaibo 0 Carabobo 0.
Sep 18: ItalMaracaibo 1 Dep Tachira 0.
Sep 19: Monagas 2 Caracas 2; Trujillanos 1 Carabobo 0; Ital-Chacao 0 UA Maracaibo 1.
Sep 22: Caracas 0 Estudiantes 0; Mineros Guayana 3 Ital-Chacao 0; UA Maracaibo 1 Trujillanos 1; Carabobo 1 ItalMaracaibo 1; Dep Tachira 1 Monagas 0.
Sep 25: ItalMaracaibo 0 UA Maracaibo 2.
Sep 26: Dep Tachira 2 Caracas 2; Monagas 1 Carabobo 1; Trujillanos 1 Mineros Guayana 1; Ital-Chacao 6 Estudiantes 2.
Sep 29: Estudiantes 2 Carabobo 2.
Oct 2: Caracas 2 Ital-Chacao 1.
Oct 3: Estudiantes 2 Trujillanos 0; Carabobo 3 Dep Tachira 1; Mineros Guayana 3 ItalMaracaibo 1; UA Maracaibo 2 Monagas 0.

VENEZUELA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trujillanos	9	5	2	2	9	7	17
Mineros Guayana	9	4	4	1	17	8	16
Caracas	9	4	4	1	13	10	16
UA Maracaibo	9	3	4	2	10	7	13
Dep Tachira	9	4	1	4	11	13	13
ItalMaracaibo	9	3	3	3	11	11	12
Carabobo	9	2	5	2	12	11	11
Estudiantes	9	2	4	3	15	17	10
Ital-Chacao	9	1	3	5	11	15	6
Monagas	9	0	4	5	4	14	4

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

MEXICO

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sep 11: Toluca 0 Pumas UNAM 1; Cruz Azul 0 Necaxa 1; Veracruz 1 Guadalajara 0; Tigres 3 Morelia 0; Dorados 0 Jaguares 0; Atlas 3 Monterrey 3.
Sep 12: America 0 Puebla 1; Pachuca 1 Atlante 1; Tecos UAG 1 Santos 0.
Sep 15: Pumas UNAM 2 Veracruz 3; Atlante 2 Toluca 1; Pachuca 2 Tecos UAG 0; Morelia 1 Cruz Azul 1; Necaxa 0 Atlas 2; Guadalajara 3 Tigres 1; Monterrey 6 Dorados 2.
Sep 16: Jaguares 2 America 1; Puebla 1 Santos 0.
Sep 18: Toluca 3 Pachuca 2; Cruz Azul 2 Guadalajara 4; Tigres 3 Pumas UNAM 1; Veracruz 6 Atlante 2; Dorados 3 Necaxa 2; Atlas 3 Morelia 3.
Sep 19: America 1 Monterrey 0; Tecos UAG 1 Puebla 1; Santos 4 Jaguares 2.
Sep 25: Toluca 1 Tecos UAG 1; Jaguares 1 Puebla 1; Morelia 3 Dorados 2; Monterrey 1 Santos 0; Guadalajara 1 Atlas 3; Necaxa 4 America 1.

Sep 26: Pumas UNAM 1 Cruz Azul 3; Atlante 1 Tigres 2; Pachuca 1 Veracruz 2.
Sep 29: Puebla 1 Monterrey 1; Tecos UAG 0 Jaguares 1; Santos 1 Necaxa 1; Veracruz 1 Toluca 0; Tigres 0 Pachuca 0; America 2 Morelia 3; Dorados 2 Guadalajara 0.
Sep 30: Cruz Azul 2 Atlante 0; Atlas 3 Pumas UNAM 1.
Oct 2: Toluca 4 Tigres 1; Monterrey 5 Jaguares 1; Morelia 1 Santos 1; Guadalajara 1 America 1; Veracruz 1 Tecos UAG 0; Necaxa 1 Puebla 2.
Oct 3: Pachuca 3 Cruz Azul 1; Pumas UNAM 3 Dorados 2; Atlante 3 Atlas 2.

MEXICO – OPENING – GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dorados	9	3	2	4	16	19	11
Tecos UAG	9	3	2	4	5	10	11
Atlante	9	3	1	5	13	22	10
Morelia	9	2	3	4	13	19	9
Pumas UNAM	9	3	0	6	12	18	9
America	9	2	2	5	10	15	8

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Puebla	9	5	4	0	12	6	19
Tigres	9	4	2	3	18	14	14
Toluca	9	4	2	3	14	10	14
Atlas	9	4	2	3	18	15	14
Guadalajara	9	3	3	3	18	12	12
Cruz Azul	9	2	1	6	13	20	7

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Veracruz	9	8	0	1	17	8	24
Monterrey	9	5	2	2	23	14	17
Pachuca	9	4	3	2	15	10	15
Jaguares	9	3	3	3	13	17	12
Necaxa	9	3	1	5	11	12	10
Santos	9	2	3	4	10	10	9

LEADING GOALSCORERS
8 Guillermo Franco (Monterrey)
7 Jared Borgetti (Dorados)
7 Jair Garcia (Puebla)

UNITED STATES

Sep 10: Colorado Rapids 3 Kansas City Wizards 1.
Sep 11: DC United 3 Dallas Burn 0; Los Angeles Galaxy 2 San Jose Earthquakes 1; MetroStars 3 New England Revolution 2.
Sep 18: Columbus Crew 4 MetroStars 2; DC United 3 Chicago Fire 1; Dallas Burn 2 Los Angeles Galaxy 0; Kansas City Wizards 1 San Jose Earthquakes 0; New England Revolution 6 Colorado Rapids 1.
Sep 25: Chicago Fire 2 New England Revolution 0; Columbus Crew 1 DC United 0; Dallas Burn 0 MetroStars 2; Kansas City Wizards 1 Colorado Rapids 0; San Jose Earthquakes 0 Los Angeles Galaxy 0.
Oct 2: Colorado Rapids 1 San Jose Earthquakes 1; Columbus Crew 3 Chicago Fire 3; Los Angeles Galaxy 1 Kansas City Wizards 1; New England Revolution 2 Dallas Burn 0; MetroStars 0 DC United 1.
Oct 6: Chicago Fire 0 Columbus Crew 1.

USA – EASTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Columbus Crew	28	12	11	5	38	30	47
MetroStars	28	11	6	11	44	45	39
DC United	28	9	9	10	39	40	36
Chicago Fire	29	8	9	12	35	42	33
New England	28	7	9	12	40	41	30

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kansas City	28	13	6	9	37	30	45
LA Galaxy	28	10	10	8	40	39	40
Colorado Rapids	29	10	10	9	28	31	40
San Jose	28	9	9	10	39	33	36
Dallas Burn	28	10	5	13	32	41	35

LEADING GOALSCORERS
11 Edson Buddle (Columbus Crew)
11 Brian Ching (San Jose Earthquakes)
11 Eddie Johnson (Dallas Burn)
11 Pat Noonan (New England Revolution)
11 Damani Ralph (Chicago Fire)
11 Carlos Ruiz (Los Angeles Galaxy)
10 Alecko Eskandarian (DC United)
10 Amado Guevara (MetroStars)

US OPEN CUP – Final

Sep 22 - Arrowhead stadium, Kansas City
Kansas City Wizards 1 (Simutenkov 95 - golden goal)
Chicago Fire 0
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-0. **Att:** 8,819. **Ref:** Vaughn

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Sep 12: Enyimba (Nig) 1 Etoile Sahel (Tun) 1; Africa Sports (IvC) 1 Bakili Bullets (Mwi) 1.
Sep 26: Etoile Sahel 1 Bakili Bullets 1; Enyimba 0 Africa Sports 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Etoile Sahel	5	3	2	0	6	2	11
Enyimba	5	2	1	2	10	3	7
Bakili Bullets	5	1	2	2	4	10	5
Africa Sports	5	1	1	3	3	8	4

Group B

Sep 10: USM Alger (Alg) 3 Esperance (Tun) 0.
Sep 11: Jeanne d'Arc (Sen) 2 SuperSport United (SAf) 0.
Sep 25: USM Alger 1 Jeanne d'Arc 1.
Sep 26: Esperance 2 SuperSport United 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance	5	4	0	1	11	5	12
Jeanne d'Arc	5	2	2	1	6	8	8
USM Alger	5	2	1	2	8	6	7
SuperSport Utd	5	0	1	4	3	9	1

Top two from each group qualify for semi-finals

AFRICAN CONFEDERATION CUP

Group stage

Group A

Sep 11: Enugu Rangers (Nig) 4 Petro Atletico (Ang) 0; Al Hilal (Sud) 2 Asante Kotoko (Gha) 0.
Sep 25: Enugu Rangers 4 Al Hilal 0; Asante Kotoko 2 Petro Atletico 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enugu Rangers	3	2	0	1	9	3	6
Asante Kotoko	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Petro Atletico	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
Al Hilal	3	1	0	2	3	7	3

Group B

Sep 12: Santos (SAf) 1 Sable Batie (Cam) 0; Cotonsport (Cam) 0 Hearts of Oak (Gha) 0.
Sep 25: Cotonsport 4 Santos 0.
Sep 26: Sable Batie 2 Hearts of Oak 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cotonsport	3	1	2	0	4	0	5
Sable Batie	3	1	1	1	2	1	4
Hearts of Oak	3	1	1	1	1	2	4
Santos	3	1	0	2	1	5	3

Group winners qualify for Final

ASIA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Quarter-finals, 1st legs

Sep 14: Al Ain (UAE) 0 Chonbuk Motors (SKo) 1; Dalian Shide (Chn) 1 Al Ittihad (Sau) 1.
Sep 15: Al Wahda (UAE) 1 Pakhtakor (Uzb) 1; Songnam Ilhwa Chunma (SKo) 6 Sharjah (UAE) 0.

Quarter-finals, 2nd legs

Sep 21: Chonbuk Motors 4 Al Ain 1 *Chonbuk 5-1 on agg*; Al Ittihad 1 Dalian Shide 0 *Al Ittihad 2-1 on agg.*
Sep 22: Pakhtakor 4 Al Wahda 0 *Pakhtakor 5-1 on agg*; Sharjah 2 Songnam Ilhwa Chunma 5 *Songnam 11-2 on agg.*

Semi-finals draw

Al Ittihad v Chonbuk Motors
1st leg – Oct 19; 2nd leg – Oct 26

Pakhtakor v Songnam Ilhwa Chunma
1st leg – Oct 20; 2nd leg – Oct 27

AFC CUP

Quarter-finals, 1st legs

Sep 14: Al Wahda (Syr) 2 Al Nejmeh (Leb) 1; Perak (Mly) 1 Geylang United (Sin) 2.
Sep 15: East Bengal (Ind) 0 Al Jaish (Syr) 0; Olympic Beirut (Leb) 3 Home United (Sin) 3.

Quarter-finals, 2nd legs

Sep 21: Al Nejmeh 3 Al Wahda 2 *Agg 4-4. Al Wahda on away goals*; Geylang United 3 Perak 2 *Geylang 5-3 on agg.*
Sep 22: Al Jaish 3 East Bengal 0 *Al Jaish 3-0 on agg*; Home United 2 Olympic Beirut 1 *Home United 5-4 on agg.*

Semi-finals draw

Al Wahda v Geylang United
1st leg – Oct 19; 2nd leg – Oct 26

Al Jaish v Home United
1st leg – Oct 20; 2nd leg – Oct 27

JAPAN

SECOND STAGE

Sep 11: Kashima Antlers 4 Cerezo Osaka 3; Yokohama F Marinos 3 Jubilo Iwata 0; JEF United Ichihara 2 Tokyo Verdy 1969 1; FC Tokyo 3 Vissel Kobe 1; Shimizu S-Pulse 3 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0; Gamba Osaka 5 Kashiwa Reysol 1.
Sep 12: Albirex Niigata 0 Nagoya Grampus Eight 0; Oita Trinita 1 Urawa Reds 4.
Sep 18: Jubilo Iwata 4 Kashima Antlers 4; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 Yokohama F Marinos 2; Oita Trinita 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 0; Vissel Kobe 3 Gamba Osaka 3; Urawa Reds 4 Albirex Niigata 1; Tokyo Verdy 1969 3 Nagoya Grampus Eight 1.
Sep 19: Kashiwa Reysol 1 FC Tokyo 1; Cerezo Osaka 3 JEF United Ichihara 0.
Sep 23: Yokohama F Marinos 2 Vissel Kobe 2; Albirex Niigata 3 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2; JEF United Ichihara 2 Oita Trinita 0; Nagoya Grampus Eight 5 Cerezo Osaka 2; Gamba Osaka 1 Tokyo Verdy 1969 3; Kashima Antlers 0 Shimizu S-Pulse 0; FC Tokyo 1 Urawa Reds 0; Jubilo Iwata 1 Kashiwa Reysol 1.
Sep 26: Urawa Reds 2 Gamba Osaka 1; Vissel Kobe 1 Jubilo Iwata 2; FC Tokyo 0 Kashima Antlers 1; Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Albirex Niigata 4; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 3 Tokyo Verdy 1969 0; Kashiwa Reysol 0 JEF United Ichihara 0; Cerezo Osaka 1 Yokohama F Marinos 1.
Oct 2: Gamba Osaka 7 Cerezo Osaka 1; Albirex Niigata 3 Oita Trinita 0; Nagoya Grampus Eight 1 FC Tokyo 1; Tokyo Verdy 1969 0 Vissel Kobe 2; JEF United Ichihara 0 Urawa Reds 4; Jubilo Iwata 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 2.
Oct 3: Kashima Antlers 0 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0; Yokohama F Marinos 0 Kashiwa Reysol 1.

JAPAN – SECOND STAGE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Urawa Reds	8	7	0	1	27	10	21
Gamba Osaka	8	5	1	2	22	12	16
Albirex Niigata	8	4	2	2	18	16	14
JEF United	8	4	2	2	10	12	14
Yokohama FM	8	3	3	2	13	10	12
Kashima Antlers	8	3	3	2	11	10	12
Grampus Eight	7	3	2	2	12	10	11
FC Tokyo	8	3	2	3	11	10	11
Shimizu S-Pulse	8	3	1	4	10	10	10
Sanfrecce H	8	2	3	3	12	13	9
Tokyo Verdy	8	3	0	5	11	17	9
Vissel Kobe	8	2	2	4	17	17	8
Oita Trinita	7	2	1	4	6	13	7
Kashiwa Reysol	8	1	4	3	6	13	7
Cerezo Osaka	8	2	1	5	16	24	7
Jubilo Iwata	8	1	3	4	12	17	6

SOUTH KOREA

SECOND STAGE

Sep 7: Chonbuk 3 Bucheon 1.
Sep 11: Daegu 1 Ulsan 0; Songnam 1 Busan 1; Pohang 0 Seoul 1; Suwon 2 Chunnam 1.
Sep 12: Incheon 0 Gwangju 0.
Sep 19: Gwangju 1 Daejeon 1; Chunnam 2 Incheon 1; Bucheon 1 Suwon 1; Busan 1 Pohang 1.
Sep 26: Seoul 0 Chonbuk 0; Ulsan 2 Songnam 1.
Oct 3: Incheon 3 Bucheon 1; Daejeon 0 Chunnam 2; Songnam 1 Daegu 0; Pohang 0 Ulsan 1; Chonbuk 2 Busan 0; Suwon 1 Seoul 0.

SOUTH KOREA – SECOND STAGE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Seoul	6	3	2	1	6	3	11
Chunnam	6	3	1	2	6	4	10
Ulsan	5	3	1	1	4	2	10
Suwon	6	3	1	2	6	5	10
Chonbuk	6	2	3	1	5	2	9
Incheon	5	2	1	2	5	4	7
Gwangju	5	1	3	1	2	2	6
Busan	6	1	3	2	4	6	6
Bucheon	6	1	3	2	5	8	6
Pohang	5	1	2	2	2	3	5
Songnam	5	1	2	2	4	6	5
Daegu	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Daejeon	5	1	1	3	3	6	4

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